

# LONDON metro®

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## THREE TO WATCH IN SOCHI

- 10 a.m. The Brad Jacobs rink will meet China in the men's curling semi-finals, with a shot at gold on the line.
- 11:15 a.m. Kaillie Humphries and Heather Moyes, the reigning Olympic gold medalists, take their final two runs in women's bobsleigh.
- 12 p.m. Canada takes on Latvia in the quarter-finals of men's hockey. Latvia was winless in its first three games before upsetting Switzerland in the qualifier. **GREG DOWNS/FOR METRO**

## Exotic pets: Born to be wild?

Metro kicks off its three-day feature with a look at what it takes to own critters ranging from a serval cat to a 16-foot python **PAGE 6-7**

## Canadians find silver lining in Sochi

Freestyle skier Mike Riddle wins silver in the men's ski halfpipe, while Canada also takes second spot in short track speedskating **PAGE 20**

# The pride of London



Tessa Virtue of London and Scott Moir of Ilderton are all smiles as they receive their silver medals Tuesday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Moir-Virtue. London Tourism GM talks area's ice dance heroes



**DAVE  
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Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir may have stepped off the international sports stage for the final time, but the memories they have left behind for London and area will live on forever.

So says Tourism London general manager John Winston a day after Virtue, 24, and Moir, 26, won the Olympic silver medal in ice dance at the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

It was their second silver medal at these Games after winning ice dance gold four years ago in Vancouver.

"They're very good people," Winston said. "And I think the point of it is that they represent London and this area. The characteristics — they are humble, they are down to earth, they're not flashy. They're not the sports celebrity/entertainer that we

normally see."

For Virtue and Moir, the flawless performance on the ice Monday night in Sochi was exceeded only by the style and grace they showed that night and the next day in various media appearances.

Silver medals on the ice; gold medals off the ice.

"How gracious were they when they accepted that silver medal with all the controversy surrounding it," Winston said.

"They exhibited a level of excellence that quite frankly is unsurpassed. I watched it yesterday and I had tears in my eyes."

The Olympics marked the 49th appearance for the duo in international events sanctioned by Skate Canada.

Three of those events — the Canadian championships in 2005 and 2010 and the world championships in 2013 — were in London.

Winston said the discussions are already underway how to best honour Moir, Virtue and London's other Olympians.

"We have some ideas but at this stage, we haven't really solidified anything."

### Quoted

"There's a confidence and a level of humility that exemplifies what our city is and what the area is like."

John Winston, Tourism London general manager, talking about Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir

## Middlesex-London

## Flu activity steady in county: Health Unit

The level of influenza activity remained stable in the county through the week of Feb. 10 to 16, reported the Middlesex-London Health Unit Tuesday.

The week saw 11 confirmed cases of the flu, all of which were type A. Seven of those patients had to be hospitalized.

Since Sept. 1, 2013, there have been 93 hospitalizations among the 188 people with the flu. Six people have died.

Nearly two-thirds of all cases reported this season have been among adults aged 20 to 64, but children under the age of five years continue to be over-represented.

Children under five years of age represent only 5.5 per cent of cases.

SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

## Oxford County

## Victim named in fatal single-vehicle crash

Oxford County OPP have identified the victim of a fatal collision in Woodstock as 76-year-old Joseph Hughes of Woodstock.

Hughes was the only one involved in the single-vehicle crash on Highway 59 South between Patullo Avenue and Greenly Line at about 6 p.m. Monday.

Hughes was taken to hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries.

The collision remains under investigation.

SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

## St. Thomas

## Man charged with sex assault, interference

Police have charged a 57-year-old St. Thomas man with sexual assault after a six-year-old girl told her mother about being inappropriately touched while under the care of a family friend.

Police arrested the man Feb. 15. He has also been charged with sexual interference.

No names have been disclosed to protect the identity of the alleged victim. SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO



Adrienne Gould, as Brooke, and Robin Ward, playing her father Wyeth, in a scene from the next Grand Theatre production, *Other Desert Cities*. The tale of a devastating family secret opens Friday and runs until March 8. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

# Grand gets extra \$10K in funding

## Canada Arts grant.

Theatre hopes to attract more shows and artists to city



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It was a grand day for the Grand Theatre on Richmond Street as the feds upped the annual funding of its Canada Arts Presentation grant to a cool \$50,000 for the 2014-15 year as well as for 2015-16.

That's \$10,000 more than the theatre had been receiving.

Executive director Deb Harvey said the funding will help attract new and diverse shows to the city.

"We're a production

## More money

"This allows us to bring other artists and organizations from across the country to London and let our audiences experience that."

Deb Harvey, executive director of the Grand

house, which means we build our shows here in London, but we also present," she said.

"This allows us to bring other artists and organizations from across the country to London and let our audiences experience that."

The money helps the Grand pay the expenses of those productions that audiences in London might not otherwise have the opportunity to see.

"The increase just allows us to invest a little more in

other companies besides building our own shows," said Harvey.

The Grand receives grant funding from all three levels of government, which makes up about 16 per cent of its budget.

Ticket sales make up another 60 to 65 per cent of the tab, and corporate and private donations fill in the rest.

What's interesting about that is the demographic for individuals who financially support the theatre, which

## Growing business

- During any given season, the Grand employs an average of 55 actors.
- Close to 300 people work for the Grand over the course of a year.

Harvey said is in the 40-year-old range.

"I would say over the last five years we've had about 5,000 new subscribers and for the most part the people joining now are a younger demographic. It's not a 25-year-old demographic, but it is a 40-year-old demographic."

The not-for-profit organization is a \$6-million annual business.



Forecast

## Winter catches its breath, milder weather on its way to London

The big chill is over — for now — but expect a watery week as the temperature rises above the freezing mark and the large amount of snow on the ground begins to wash away.

Environment Canada forecasts milder weather with periods of rain through Friday before things begin to cool off again Saturday into Sunday.

That means the bulky snow banks lining many of the city's streets will begin to melt, creating large puddles on streets and possible flood conditions in low-lying areas.

It will come on the heels of yet another snowstorm.

Monday night brought not only snow and gusty winds, but lightning and thunder adding a surreal twist to what has already been a winter many will want to forget.

The Middlesex-London Health Unit has issued four separate cold alerts and the region has been belted with about 200 centimetres of snow.

Monday's lightning and thunder were just the tip of the, um, iceberg.

SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

Forecast highs

Here's what we can expect in the Forest City:

- Wednesday 2 C
- Thursday 4 C
- Friday 3 C



Executive director Megan Walker, right, and child care worker Erin Dodge celebrate the opening of the new location of the women's centre on Tuesday, which is located on 797 York St. SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

# London Abused Women's Centre opens new doors

**Welcome in.** More inviting surroundings for people who need help

It's bigger, it's brighter and, most importantly for the women who use its services, it's warmer and much more inviting.

The London Abused Women's Centre officially opened the doors to its new location at 797 York St., just west of Rectory Street Tuesday, and executive director

Megan Walker couldn't be happier.

"It's all one floor," she said. "Our other place (at 217 York) had stairs, so this is nice. We've got lots of brightness and the colours are warm."

When the ever-growing Libro Financial purchased the building the centre had been occupying, Walker and her team went into search mode as quickly as possible.

"We had been there for 10 years and intended to stay, but Libro needed the space. They advised us of their plans about a year ago, so we went out to the market."

Not any building would do, she said. It was crucial to remain in or very close to the downtown core, it had to be on major bus lines, well lit, accessible and it needed to have a number of offices for staff and special rooms for clients.

After going to tender, the Southside Group came up with the winning proposal.

"They were great and we're so happy to have partnered with them," Walker said. "This place is so women-focused and child-focused. I think it's going to work out very well."

SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

If you need help:

The London Abused Women's Centre:

- Located on 797 York St.
- Call them at 519-432-2204.
- If you need emergency help, call 911.
- For crisis counselling, call the Abused Women's Helpline at 519-642-3000.

## Charity. Western students design fun fundraiser

It's London's version of goodwill hunting.

Western University students from the not-for-profit management program have scheduled a scavenger hunt fundraiser in support of Wellspring London, the noted cancer support centre.

Organizers are calling the event A Downtown ScAdventure and are looking for teams to get together, gather some sponsors and register for the March 9 race that will be run through the city's downtown core.

Wellspring offers a wide range of free cancer support programs and services to meet the emotional, social, psychological and informational needs of people living with cancer, and those who care for them.

"We were asked to run a fundraising event for our events class at school," said Sienna Taylor, one of the organizers of the hunt. "We thought it sort of fits with the values of Wellspring London, in terms of wellness and being healthy with the walking aspect of it."

She hopes those who sign up for it rediscover the downtown core in a new way by looking for landmarks they may have never really noticed.

"People will get the hunt list on the day of the event," she said. "There are going to be different locations and what we like to call hidden gems. It'll all be stuff that's already there."

Taylor promised exciting prizes for the taking.

For more information, look for A Downtown ScAdventure on the events page of the Wellspring London website, wellspringlondon.ca. Registration is \$30 for teams of two to four people. Deadline is March 8. SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

Offering support

- Across the Wellspring network, over 50 programs are offered providing support, coping skills, and education to those touched by cancer.

# Wynne won't play Let's Make A Deal



Premier Kathleen Wynne  
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario's Liberal government is committed to introducing a new "revenue stream" to fund public transit in the upcoming budget, Premier Kathleen Wynne vowed Tuesday, dismissing an NDP warning not to raise taxes on middle-class families.

Wynne said she wasn't prepared to play Let's Make A Deal to avoid the minority government's defeat on its fiscal plan.

"I look forward to being able to work with the opposition parties, but at the end of the day if the budget that we put forward is not going to be supported by the opposition, then we'll be into a spring election," she said.

As the legislature resumed sitting for the first time in two months, all three parties were jockeying for position in advance of the budget, expected

in March or early April.

In a letter sent to Wynne Monday night, NDP Leader Andrea Horwath warned she "will not support any new taxes, tolls or fees that hit middle-class families."

But Wynne said the Liberals are "committed" to finding a way to fund transit expansion in the heavily congested Toronto-to-Hamilton corridor, and will decide by budget time

whether that will be an increased tax on gasoline, road tolls or some other levy.

Speaking with reporters Tuesday, Horwath stressed that her party "will not tolerate" any hike in the gas tax or new road tolls to fund transit, but refused to say if the NDP would vote against the minority government's budget if it includes tax hikes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS





Amanda Phillips, left, and Rosette Moore with the socks donated so far. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

## Mike Bloxam. Would-be councillor seeks to bring balance to life in London

The latest candidate for city hall has been announced: business owner and community volunteer Mike Bloxam.

Already a member of the city's environmental advisory committee, Bloxam will run in Ward 6, the seat being vacated by Coun. Nancy Branscombe.

Bloxam owns and operates SunTap Technologies, a company specializing in renewable energy.

He says launching and sustaining a small business has given him crucial skills to put to use on city council.

Mentoring co-op students through his company has helped convince Bloxam of the need to create opportuni-

ties for young people in the city.

"Striking the right balance between economics, community life and the environment is critical to a successful city. My experience as a business owner and volunteer in London has helped me find that balance, showing me first-hand it is absolutely achievable," Bloxam said.

"Instead of always looking outside our city for business investment, we need to encourage homegrown small businesses."

Bloxam served for 15 years as a volunteer at the London Food Bank and also helps ReForest London and All-Breed Canine Rescue. **METRO**

### Jeans 'n Classics concert

## One more chance to buy a stairway to heaven

Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario has added seats to the Jeans 'n Classics Music of Led Zeppelin concert this Saturday night at the London Convention Centre.

"Our phones are busy with people looking for tickets," said Jeff Duncan, CEO for Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario. "So we have made room for 20 more tables in our room configuration."

Michael Shotton is on vocals, with arrangements created by Peter Brennan and performed by the Jeans 'n Classics Rock Symphony.

**METRO**

# Please — just put a sock in it

**Come on, sock it to us!** Charity drive seeks to address serious but rarely discussed problem



**MIKE DONACHIE**

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"Once your feet are cold and wet, that's it," says Amanda Phillips. "You're miserable."

Students at Brescia College are trying to take some of the misery out of homelessness by making sure some struggling Londoners at least have warm, dry feet.

To make that a reality, the Brescia student branch of the Canadian Association of Foodservice Professionals has launched its first sock drive.

The national event encourages students to compete to raise the most socks for a charity. It started Jan. 8 and runs until the end of March.

The London committee has chosen to aid the Unity Project, the east London charity that helps people in need of housing and other support.

### Got a pair?

Make a donation on the Brescia campus — there's a bin outside the student council office and coin jars at the front desk, registrar's office and in the library.

- There will also be a collection table in the Western University Community Centre on March 6, 7 and 10.
- Send questions to [cafpxec@gmail.com](mailto:cafpxec@gmail.com).

But why socks?

"They're such a need, and people don't talk about it much," said Phillips. "At the Unity Project, when we talked to (development manager Sylvia Langer), she said if she had a pair of socks every time someone asked, it would be 5,000 or more."

The Brescia students have set a goal of 1,500 pairs of new socks. In addition to accepting socks, they're fundraising by selling cakes and crepes and organizing other events.

### Sign of solidarity

## Pride flag finally flies at legislature

With just five days to go until the end of the Sochi Olympics, the rainbow flag is finally flying at the Ontario legislature.

The three elected parties all agreed on Feb. 10 to ask the Speaker for permission to fly the Pride flag, but it wasn't granted until Tuesday, when the legislative session resumed.

The rainbow flag is a long-standing symbol of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights.

It's been raised at various city halls and municipal buildings — including those in Montreal, Ottawa, Vancouver and Edmonton — as a sign of solidarity after Russia passed an anti-gay law.

"We're joining other municipalities and jurisdictions across Canada and outlining our support for tolerance and equality and expressing concern with some of the policies that we've seen in Russia," said government house leader John Milloy.

"I think it's the right cause in light of what's happening in the Sochi Olympics," said Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak.

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford caused a stir two weeks ago when he voiced his opposition to flying a rainbow flag at city hall, saying the Olympics are "not about someone's sexual preference."

Kathleen Wynne — Canada's first openly gay premier — has said the Olympics are an opportunity "to demonstrate our tolerance, diversity and respect for human rights on an international stage."

Her office has said she does not support intolerance of any group regardless of faith or identity and rejects the Russian government's discriminatory laws.

In Vancouver, the flag went up at the request of Mayor Gregor Robertson and coincided with a decision to send an openly gay councillor to Sochi to lobby for the International Olympic Committee to make Pride Houses mandatory at future Games.

Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre had said flying the flag was in protest of "several gestures of repression towards the LGBT community in Russia."

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**

## Ryger Corporation. City gets one step closer to erection of titanic tower

Members of the city's planning and environment committee were in agreement Tuesday night as they approved a huge new tower.

If all goes according to plan, the Ryger Corporation project will become the tallest tower in the city.

It's centred on a site at Talbot and Fullerton streets and will be, if approved by the full council next week, 33 floors high. That works out to 108 metres tall.

It's planned to have a mix of commercial and office space, plus 248 residential apartments. It could cost \$100 million to build.

After listening to arguments by local residents,

### Sky high

# 108 m

The project will be 33 floors high, or 108 metres tall.

whose concerns included the height of the building and the possibility that glass could fall from it, the committee voted 6-0 in favour of the plans.

Coun. Judy Bryant said it showed confidence in the downtown core, and Mayor Joe Fontana said it was an exciting project and a great idea.

**MIKE DONACHIE/METRO**



# London transit fares: To raise or not to raise?



Passengers climb aboard a bus in downtown London, but should they be paying more? MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

**LTC.** With every fee hike comes the risk of lost ridership, and officials aren't yet keen on demanding more of users' money

**MARK SPOWART**  
london@metronews.ca

Is it time for the London Transit Commission (LTC) to raise its fares?

The question may not be as easy to answer as you might think. The LTC receives money from a number of different sources, and even in its fare structure there are options for riders to save money over the \$2.75 cash fare for adults.

There is also a risk that all transit commissions face with any fare increase.

"For every 10 per cent you increase fares by, you lose 3.5 per cent of ridership in that category," says Larry Ducharme, general manager of the LTC.

## Service

### Buses still playing catch-up

The LTC is swinging above its batting average and it's going to take a little while for the system to catch up to where it needs to be, but when it does, it could very well be the jewel in London's crown.

"In the 2007 transportation master plan, we (LTC) were given a mandate to increase our portion of ride share — the method in which people choose to travel — from a then-seven per cent of all trips, to 10 per cent by 2020. As of 2010-11 we were

already at 12.5 per cent," says LTC general manager Larry Ducharme.

But Ducharme says he knows he is not yet providing the service that his customers want. And he has the stats to show it.

Demand for his service has grown to a ratio of 6:1. Put another way, for every person who was able to get on the bus, five more wanted to.

From 2012 to 2013, the number of overcrowded buses grew by 27 per cent.

But there is a silver lining.

The 90 Express route has given riders a quick and efficient ride from downtown to Masonville Place, which has in turn lifted some of the

burden from the other routes that service Masonville Place. And in the not-too-distant future, a similar route will be running out to White Oaks from downtown.

As well, city council has approved funding for the necessary environmental assessments to look at establishing an integrated bus rapid transit (BRT) system that will connect the four corners of the city.

When it does, and the rest of the system is re-aligned, London could very well have the transit system in place that business, industry and riders have been asking for.

We just have to be patient.

MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

And while LTC cash fares are in line with other transit commissions across the province, the amount of money it receives from the city isn't.

"When we look at comparable commissions like Kitchen-

er-Waterloo, who in 2011 had 19.7 million trips, compared to our 22.4 million, they received from their city council \$31.4 million in funding compared to our \$18.6 million," says Ducharme.

For his part, Ducharme says he does not believe now is a good time to raise fares.

"Specific to cash fares, raising the fare to \$3 from the current \$2.75 would raise revenues by approximately \$380,000," says Ducharme.

However, that increase quickly shrinks to \$209,000 when Ducharme factors in \$151,000 in lost ridership and an additional \$20,000 in lost provincial gas-tax funding.

Amanda Stratton, who has followed public transit in the city for years and a year ago started the Twitter account LTCBuspeople as a way to engage more Londoners, echoes Ducharme's assessment.

"I would rather see the municipality increase its contributions rather than have an increase on the backs of riders," she says.

Stratton also addressed the emerging "millennial" age demographic — upwards of a third of people aged 18 to 35 are opting not to drive.

"People don't want to drive any more, other cities have acknowledged this, and you hear

it over and over from business, industry and other groups saying improving public transit is the way to attract people and business to the city. City staff know we need it, but it seems to continue to fall on deaf ears (at council)," said Stratton.

Longtime city councillor Joni Baechler, who also sits on the transit commission, knows

a fare increase will have to come, but not before an increase in service.

"I think once we get to a progressive and re-aligned transit system, where

you know the bus will be there when it says it will be and it won't take too long to get to your destination, once we get to that point of a complete restructuring, and people are willing to pay for that service, then I think you will see discussion at that point," says Baechler.



Coun. Joni Baechler  
METRO FILE





Stalking prey on the Savannah? Nope. Jagger the serval cat is on his daily outing in the Regina suburb where he lives. His owners say they're prepared to move out of province to keep their pet, if need be. ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO IN REGINA

# A killer in the family

## Jagger the serval cat.

A Regina couple talks about their devotion to an African feline

ALYSSA  
MCDONALD  
Metro in Regina

As Kim Shaheen takes his nightly walk around his suburban Regina neighbourhood, there are lots of smiles, some stares and a few questions.

And they are all focused on the African serval cat on a harness with Shaheen.

For many, the animal — the smallest out of the African cat family — is usually not the first thing that comes to mind when choosing a new pet.

But for Shaheen and his wife, Pam, a couple from Regina with three grown children, it was the perfect way to round out their family.

The 30-pound pet, named Jagger, has four litter boxes, regularly plays fetch in the park behind the house and sleeps in the same bed as the couple.

"It's like having a four-year-old that is never going to grow up," Shaheen told Metro from his living room in north-

Visit [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca) to watch a video of Jagger in action.



east Regina. "It's a pet that you get so close to because they are so dependant on you," added Pam.

Jagger is so much a part of the family that when the couple found out in November 2012 — roughly seven months after they got the baby animal from a breeder in B.C. — that the province might not allow them to keep

him, they started planning a move. "He's got no claws, he's never let out on his own (and) he's fixed so he is not going to change the environment, so I am not quite sure what the issue is," Pam said, adding that the city has no problem with the pet, just the province.

The pair say that serval cats get attached to their owners and once separated, the pet will go so far as to starve itself instead of living without its family. That's why, for the Shaheens, choosing to get Jagger was not a rash decision but rather a 20-year commitment — and even a letter

from provincial government officials asking them to voluntarily remove Jagger from the province would not stand in their way.

"(He's) a family member. We can't give him up," said Shaheen, adding that the city was far more accommodating. It was easy to register their exotic cat. "We are his pride, ... even when we are not here for a few days, he gets depressed."

"They bond with one family for life," said Pam.

So the couple has embraced living with their larger-than-life pet, taking him to schools and seniors homes

for visits and watching him play with the family dog and cat. And not minding when he jumps up on the kitchen counters and costs them roughly \$300 a month in "food and whatever he breaks."

Kim Shaheen  
cuddles his pet  
serval cat, Jagger.  
ALYSSA MCDONALD/  
FOR METRO



## Day 1: Exotic pets in Canada

After two New Brunswick boys were killed last year by an escaped African rock python, we wanted to understand why so many Canadians bring exotic — and sometimes lethal — animals into their homes and lives. What are the costs involved in caring for such critters? How many of these pets are illegal? And what happens when it all goes wrong?

- **Thursday.** Escape the clutch of a Burmese python and hear what the Ikea monkey's former owner has to say about having wild friends.
- **Friday.** Metro goes shopping for an opossum, and explains what to do when you have trouble with your pet fox.





Vern Ruml's 16-foot-long, 200-pound Burmese python named Abu poses with Ruml's girlfriend, Becky Girard. Abu was born in Ruml's home near Winnipeg in 1999. Ruml legally owns a dozen reptiles, and he's concerned about the welfare of animals that are smuggled into Canada. VERN RUMI

# Why do people buy exotic pets? Some say love, others say ego



ISTOCK

**Opposing camps.** Folks on either side of the ownership debate weigh in on the point of it all

ALYSSA MCDONALD  
Metro in Regina

When exotic pets make headlines, it's usually not for a good reason — generally, the story involves beasts who have escaped, have injured someone or been seized by officials as smugglers try to bring them into the country.

That can lead to a lot of head-shaking. Why, people wonder, does anyone want to obtain such creatures in the first place?

"I think for some people it's the challenge, but number one and foremost, it's for the love of the animal," said Scott Shoemaker, who acts as the director of Responsible Exotic Animal Ownership, a pro-position U.S. lobby group.

Shoemaker owns tigers, African cats and cougars, and said he does it because of the connections he's established with his pets.

"There are a lot of people who buy these animals and they love them," agreed Rob Laidlaw of Zoocheck, an organization that's on the other side of the exotic pet ownership debate. "They swear by what they are doing, are committed to it and defend it, and every once in a while someone gets killed by their pet."

Since exotic animals tend to

be so much work, and some are potentially lethal, owners who are not dedicated to such pets tend to get rid of them, which can cause problems if the animals are simply let back into the wild.

Laidlaw said that a variety of influences, including television shows featuring odd creatures, can prompt people to obtain an unusual pet. "People do just

buy animals on an impulse. They don't know what they are getting into," said Laidlaw. "They acquire the animal, get attached to the animal right away and end up keeping it." But he also maintains that some people want exotic pets because of the ego boost involved. "I always use the expression, 'Give a nobody a cougar on a leash, they become a somebody,'" he said.

But Shoemaker maintains that's not the reason people end up keeping such pets. "The commitment is 10 to 20 years, especially for a bigger cat. After the first couple of times it poops on your floor, it's no longer cool — it's some work," said Shoemaker.

"(People) may get into it because of that, but they don't stay in it because it's cool."

## Quoted

"I always use the expression, 'Give a nobody a cougar on a leash, they become a somebody.'"

Rob Laidlaw of Zoocheck

## \* Buyer beware: Your scaly friend might not get into the country

There's the debate over whether exotic animals are safe to keep as pets — and then, there's the question of whether they're even legal to bring into Canada in the first place.

"We're seeing more traffic of exotic pets," Lyle Saigeon, executive director of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment's fish and wildlife branch, told Metro.

"The problem is that the exotic pet trade becomes kind of a global thing. And certainly, a lot of exotic animals are being brought into Saskatchewan, or other places in Canada, (through) online pet stores."

The continuing rapid increase in online pet sales has made purchasing animals foreign to Canada far easier than it used to be.

Saigeon points out that it's "kind of a buyer-beware thing" as to whether the would-be pet is legal to own in Canada, or in any particular province or city — and therefore, whether the snake, lizard, monkey or mongoose can even cross the border in a box or by some other means and reach the purchaser's property.

If the creature is endangered, he said, "the federal government would not let something like that into

the country. But if it's coming across in a box, a lot of times it's not caught. And that's certainly the case for a lot of smaller animals."

Vern Ruml, who legally owns a dozen reptiles including a Burmese python, boa constrictors and an alligator snapping turtle at his home near Winnipeg, is concerned about transactions and transport of foreign animals.

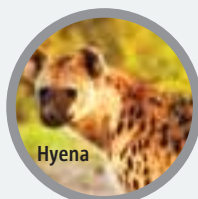
"If they're not allowed, isn't the only way to get them here to smuggle them?" said Ruml, who operated the Ruml's Reptiles educational enterprise in Manitoba until about a decade ago.

"That shouldn't happen. If an animal isn't supposed to be somewhere, it shouldn't be there. Because ultimately, it's the animal that suffers. Not the person." ROSS ROMANIUK/METRO

\* If you're uneasy about buying pets online, then you're better off going to a local pet store where it's more likely that the pets for sale are legal in a particular jurisdiction, advises Lyle Saigeon, executive director of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment's fish and wildlife branch.

## So, where can't I own a wolverine?

The rules around exotic animal ownership in Canada are mostly a patchwork of provincial and municipal laws. Here are just some of the creatures you can't keep in various jurisdictions across the country.



Hyena

### Pets prohibited in Toronto include:

- Canidae (such as coyotes, wolves, hybrid wolf dogs) except dogs
- Chiroptera (bats such as fruit bats, myotis, flying foxes)
- Felidae (such as tigers, leopards, cougars) except cats
- Hyenidae (such as hyenas)
- Marsupials (such as kangaroos, opossums, wallabies) except sugar gliders derived from self-sustaining captive populations
- Mustelidae (such as skunks, weasels, otters, badgers) except ferrets
- Primates (such as gorillas, monkeys, lemurs)
- All venomous and poisonous animals

### Pets prohibited in Saskatoon include:

- All bats
- All Crocodylians
- All hyenas
- All Arachnids dangerous to humans, except tarantulas of the genera Aphonopelma, Avicularia and Grammostola
- Canidae, except the domestic dog
- All Edentates (such as anteaters, sloths and armadillos)
- All Marsupials (such as kangaroos and opossums)
- Primates (such as gorillas and monkeys)
- All Pinnipeds (such as seals, fur seals and walruses)



Walrus



Wild boar

### Pets prohibited in Nova Scotia include:

- Wild boar
- Prairie dogs
- All Hyenidae (hyenas)
- All Ursidae (bears)
- All Cervidae (deer)
- All Primates
- All Pteropodidae (bats)
- Canidae, except the domestic dog
- Felidae, except the domestic cat
- All Crocodylians (such as alligators and crocodiles)
- All Procyonidae (such as raccoons, coatis and cacomistles)
- All Viverridae (such as mongooses, civets and genetis)
- All venomous animals (including those with toxin removed)

### Pets prohibited in Winnipeg include:

- All bears, including polar, grizzly, brown and black bears
- All fur bearing animals of the family Mustelidae, including weasel, badger, skunk, otter, wolverine, except the domestic ferret
- All Procyonidae, including raccoon, kinkajou, cacomistle, cat-bear, panda and coati mundi
- All carnivorous mammals of the family Viverridae, including, but not limited to, civet, mongoose and genet
- Primates, including but not limited to monkey, ape, chimpanzee, gorilla and lemur



Mongoose

ISTOCK PHOTOS



# Police, protesters killed in clashes in Ukrainian capital

**Kyiv.** Officers in riot gear moved against main protest camp as anti-government faction fought back with rocks, bats and firebombs

Amid cries of "Glory to Ukraine!" and with flaming tires lighting up the night sky, thousands of riot police armed with stun grenades and water cannons attacked the protest camp in the centre of Kyiv on Tuesday, following a day of street battles that left 18 people dead and hundreds injured.

The violence was the deadliest in nearly three months of anti-government protests that have paralyzed Ukraine's capital in a struggle over the nation's identity.

With the boom of exploding stun grenades and fireworks nearly drowning out his words at times, opposition leader Vitali Klitschko urged the

## Canadian connection

A handful of anti-government protesters have taken shelter inside the Canadian embassy.

- Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird's office says they are peaceful and have not caused any damage or harm to staff.
- Canadian embassy workers are safe and accounted for, spokesman Adam Hodge said.

20,000 protesters to defend the camp on Independence Square.

"We will not go anywhere from here," Klitschko told the crowd. "This is an island of freedom and we will defend it," he said.

As police dismantled some of the barricades and tried to push away the protesters, they fought back with rocks, bats and firebombs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Anti-government protesters clash with riot police in Kyiv's Independence Square in Ukraine on Tuesday, where thousands of police attacked the large opposition camp in Ukraine's capital that has been the centre of nearly three months of anti-government protests. EFREM LUKATSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Pussy Riot members detained by police in Sochi



Pussy Riot members Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, in the blue balaclava, and Maria Alekhina, in the pink, make their way through a crowd after they were released from a police station Tuesday in Adler, Russia. MORRY GASH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian punk group Pussy Riot burst onto the Olympic scene Tuesday when two of its members were picked up by police in Sochi — and then ran away defiant down a rain-soaked street a few hours later, shouting and wearing their trademark balaclavas.

The police questioning of Russia's most recognizable punk rockers, along with detentions of activists in recent days, brought political tensions to the fore at Vladimir Putin's showcase Winter Olympics.

Nadezhda Tolokonnikova and Maria Alekhina, along with seven others, were held by police near Sochi's ferry terminal, a popular area for fans celebrating the Games. Police said they were questioned in connection with a theft at a hotel. No charges were filed.

"Putin will teach you how to love the motherland!" the women chanted on leaving the police station, their fists in the air and blue, pink and orange ski masks covering their faces.

Tolokonnikova said Tues-

day's detention followed three days of police harassment. She also said the two band members were detained for several hours the previous two days.

"We members of Pussy Riot have been here since late Sunday and we were constantly detained since then," Tolokonnikova said after her release. "We are constantly surrounded by people, not you journalists, but people who are shadowing us, following our every move and looking for any excuse to detain us." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Renewed criticism

Russia's suppression of protests has been widely denounced in the West and the Pussy Riot detentions brought renewed criticism.

- "In Putin's Russia, the authorities have turned the Olympic rings ... into handcuffs to shackle freedom of expression," said John Dalhuisen, Europe director for Amnesty International, in a statement.

## Venezuela

### Opposition leader surrenders after days in hiding

Opposition leader Leopoldo López emerged from days of hiding and surrendered to police before thousands of supporters on Tuesday, saying he hopes his arrest awakens Venezuela to the corruption and economic

disaster caused by 15 years of socialist rule.

Speaking via megaphone to over 5,000 people, López said that he doesn't fear going to jail to defend his beliefs and right to peacefully protest against President Nicolás Maduro.

López was being sought by authorities for allegedly inciting violence during protests last week in which three people were killed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## France

### Man arrested in 2012 French Alps shooting deaths

French police detained a 48-year-old man Tuesday in the first French arrest linked to the shooting deaths of a British-Iraqi and three others in the French Alps nearly 18 months ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Bangkok

### Attempt by police to clear protest sites turns deadly

Gun battles broke out Tuesday as hundreds of riot police made their strongest attempt to clear anti-government protest sites around Thailand's capital, leaving at least four people dead and 64

others injured.

Multiple gunshots were heard near the prime minister's offices, where riot police had started to remove protesters and dismantle a makeshift stage. Witnesses said a grenade was thrown at the police and shots were then fired by both sides.

The police withdrew after a series of clashes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Riot police fire on protesters in Bangkok, Thailand, Tuesday. WALLY SANTANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



## The Ford show. Mayor offended when people call him homophobic

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford said in a YouTube video released Tuesday that he's offended by claims he's homophobic, while his city councillor brother suggested people in the gay community are "bullies."

The brothers made the comments in the second instalment of their online "Ford Nation" show, consisting of a series of clips of varying lengths in which they slag fellow councillors and take one question.

The query appears to have come via email from "Mary from Scarborough," who is identified as the mother of a gay son. She referenced Ford's stance against a rainbow flag at city hall and recent comments about not attending the annual pride parade.

Ford read the question, in



Toronto Mayor Rob Ford is questioned by reporters as he returns to the council floor at city hall in Toronto on Thursday.

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

which "Mary" suggested Ford is homophobic and asked why people should vote for him if he doesn't support all citizens. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

## Calgary. Parents face murder charges after neglecting son: Police

Police say they expect to lay murder charges against the parents of a 15-year-old boy who died from diabetes complications.

Investigators in Calgary said Tuesday that the couple did not provide proper medical treatment for their son.

Police allege that the boy was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes several years ago, when the family lived in British Columbia, and his parents had been taught how to treat him with insulin. When his health declined, investigators say he was confined to his room.

Police were called to a home in Calgary last May and found his body.

Staff Sgt. Grant Miller with the homicide unit wouldn't provide details of the boy's condition when he was discovered, but described it as "extreme."

"This boy has suffered from long-term neglect to the point that he was unable to seek medical attention on his own," Miller said.

He said tests later revealed the teen died of a bacterial infection stemming from neglect and starvation due to his diabetes. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

### South Carolina

#### Woman jailed after failing to return video tape

It was not a pile of late fees a South Carolina woman got when a video store owner said she failed to return a video she rented in 2005. Instead, she spent a night in jail. Twenty-seven-year-old Kayla Michelle Finley of Pickens was arrested last week and charged with failing to return a rented video cassette.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

### Concerns

#### Medical pot program being abused: RCMP

The RCMP says there is an overwhelming temptation for growers of medical marijuana to supplement their income under the current system by selling extra pot. In an affidavit filed in the Federal Court of Canada, RCMP Cpl. Shane Holmquist says investigations have revealed various abuses of the medical marijuana program.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**

# Home brew program helps alcohol addicts

**Vancouver.** The Drug Users Resource Centre offers a program where severe alcoholics can make home brew



EMILY JACKSON  
Metro in Vancouver

Instead of sitting back while illicit drinkers poison themselves with high-alcohol products like Listerine and hand sanitizer, a Vancouver non-profit decided to help them get away from the products no human is meant to ingest.

The Portland Hotel Society — yes, the same folks that made headlines around the world last week for crack pipe vending machines — offers a program where severe alcoholics can make home brew at its Drug Users Resource Centre located across from Oppenheimer Park, a green space where some of the problem drinkers congregate during the day.

Called the "drinkers lounge," members in the year-old program must attend weekly meetings to be eligible to brew their own booze, said Mark Townsend of the PHS.

If people attend the meetings to discuss health, learn CPR and get help with treatment plans, they can then contribute \$10 to buy a brew kit with four others.

"We want there to be a commitment to education and the group to be a positive



The Drug Users Resource Centre in the Downtown Eastside uses innovative ways to reduce harm, including a polka-dotted crack pipe vending machine that made headlines around the world. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

influence," Townsend said. "We don't want to just randomly hand out stuff."

About 30 people are involved in brewing, with another 60 enrolled just for the meetings.

Outside of the club, the centre has a hydration team that goes out twice a day to places where illicit drinkers hang out to check on them, encourage them to drink water or juice and bring them back to the centre.

It's a pragmatic, self-funded initiative that helps a very small group of people (there's an estimated 200 illicit drinkers) who, if left on the streets to ingest substances like hair-spray, often have negative interactions with police or end up in hospital, Townsend said.

While initiatives like this and the crack pipe vending machine tend to grab headlines, they're all part of how the PHS reduces harm in a

cost effective way. It also provides detox, banking services and housing.

"All these things fit in the same basket of intervention," Townsend said, noting that managed alcohol programs have been underway with doctor supervision at one of its social housing sites for eight years. This program simply targets people who are more transient, he said, and there has been no push back at all since it started.

## Charlotte's Web: A pot strain for seizures?



In this Feb. 7, 2014 photo, Matt Figi hugs and tickles his once severely-ill seven-year-old daughter Charlotte.

BRENNAN LINSLEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The doctors were out of ideas to help Charlotte Figi, then five.

Suffering from a rare genetic disorder, she had as many as 300 grand mal seizures a week, used a wheelchair, went into repeated cardiac arrest and could barely speak. As a last resort, her mother began calling medical marijuana shops.

Two years later, Charlotte is largely seizure-free and able to walk, talk and feed herself after taking oil infused with a special pot strain. Her recovery has inspired both a name for the strain of marijuana she takes that is bred not to make users

high — Charlotte's Web — and an influx of families with seizure-stricken children to Colorado from states that ban the drug.

"She can walk, talk; she ate chili in the car," her mother, Paige Figi, said as her dark-haired daughter strolled through a cavernous greenhouse full of marijuana plants that will later be broken down into their anti-seizure components and mixed with olive oil so patients can consume them. "So I'll fight for whoever wants this."

Doctors warn there is no

proof that Charlotte's Web is effective, or even safe.

In the frenzy to find the drug, there have been reports of non-authorized suppliers offering bogus strains of Charlotte's Web. In one case, a doctor said, parents were told they could replicate the strain by cooking marijuana in butter. Their child went into heavy seizures.

"We don't have any peer-reviewed, published literature to support it," Dr. Larry Wolk, the state health department's chief medical officer, said of Charlotte's Web.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



# This time it's not Putin doing the censoring in Sochi

**Image control.** The International Olympic Committee is strictly enforcing blackout of non-official sponsors

Want to see the glasses and goggles that aerial skier Lydia Lassila and snowboarder Lindsey Jacobellis wore at the Sochi Olympics? If you go to the website of the company that manufactures their eyewear, you might be in for a shock.

On the Australian section of Bolle.com, photos of Lassila, Jacobellis and other competitors at the Sochi Games have been digitally blurred to obscure their faces.

This isn't a throwback to the days when Soviet propaganda chiefs airbrushed people out of photos. It's an extreme application of regulations meant to make sure that companies such as Bollé, which do not sponsor the Olympics, don't get to adver-

tise off the back of them.

So the Olympics are a Pepsi-free zone, because Coca-Cola is an Olympic sponsor. In Sochi's Olympic Park, only Visa cards work for payments or in ATMs, again because Visa is a sponsor. At one Sochi venue, an Olympic worker even slapped a white sticker over the Dell logo on a journalist's laptop, because the computer manufacturer isn't an Olympic sponsor.

For Olympians, the dense and confusing thicket of rules severely restricting advertising is a serious issue.

In theory, Olympians could be disqualified if they use the games to plug non-approved brands. The International Olympic Committee even holds athletes responsible for how their sponsors behave outside the Olympic bubble.

Rule 40 of the IOC charter states: "Except as permitted by the IOC executive board, no competitor, coach, trainer or official who participates in the Olympic Games may allow his person, name, picture

## Open to change

During the Sochi Olympics, the athletes can't let their images be used for any commercial advertising. The blackout applies from nine days before the opening ceremony until three days after the closing — from Jan. 30 to Feb. 26.

- While the International Olympic Committee has steadfastly defended the policy, the committee appears willing to consider changes in the future. "It's up for discussion and debate," said an IOC spokesman.

or sports performances to be used for advertising purposes during the Olympic Games."

The rule means athletes cannot allow their images to be used for any commercial advertising, whether Olympic-related or not, for the duration of the blackout period.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



## Will investors be sweet on Candy Crush Saga?

This screenshot shows Candy Crush Saga. King Digital Entertainment PLC, maker of the maddeningly addictive mobile game, is planning to raise up to \$500 million from an initial public offering of its common stock. The company did not disclose how many shares are expected in the IPO or the projected price range. CANDY CRUSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

# Mexico, Canada play nice ahead of Three Amigos summit



Prime Minister Stephen Harper walks with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto as he arrives at the National Palace in Mexico City on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada and Mexico have sealed an agreement to expand air travel between the two countries and renewed their vows to foster mutual economic growth.

Ministers formally signed the travel deal Tuesday under the watchful eye of Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto.

The two countries also renewed their long-standing "joint action plan" to foster economic growth, security, immigration and trade.

Harper's meeting with Peña

Nieto will serve as a warm-up of sorts for Wednesday, when they join U.S. President Barack Obama in a North American leaders' summit.

Earlier in the day, as he met with Mexican business leaders, Harper said Canada needs to do more to close its trade deficit with Mexico while attracting more investment from its southern neighbour.

While the 20-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement has fostered commercial growth between the two countries, there are still wrinkles to iron out, he suggested.

"It's a very unbalanced relationship," Harper said.

"Trade flows have gone up enormously, but mostly on the Mexican side. Investment flows have gone up enormously, but almost entirely on the Canadian side. So we probably want to take a look at what we can do to grow some of those things ... in a more balanced way."

In 2012, Canada imported \$25.5 billion from Mexico while Canada exported about \$5.4 billion to Mexico, the Prime Minister's Office said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Thorn in side

The expanded air access agreement could be a precursor to Harper eventually lifting the controversial visa it slapped on Mexican travellers in 2009 to combat an increase of bogus asylum seekers.

- Mexico's government has said the visa requirement is invasive, time-consuming and to blame for a decline in Mexican visitors to Canada.

## Market Minute

**DOLLAR**  
91.32¢  
(+0.27¢)

Natural gas: \$5.57 US (+\$0.19)  
Dow Jones: 16,130.40 (-23.99)

**TSX**  
14,077.47 (+22.71)

**OIL**  
\$102.43 US (+\$2.13)

**GOLD**  
\$1,324.40 US (+\$5.80)

## A new chapter

### Wikipedia turns page, with books

Thanks to a crowd-funding campaign Wikipedia is set to take a retro twist with a set of printed books covering more than four million English-language articles over more



A Wikipedia book. METRO WORLD NEWS

than a million pages.  
METRO WORLD NEWS

## Pop's out, Powerade's in

### Coke's profits go flat, as soda sales fizzle

Coca-Cola's fourth-quarter profit fell as the world's biggest beverage maker once again sold less soda in North America. The maker of Sprite, Dasani and Vitamin-

water water said Tuesday that sales volume declined one per cent in North America. That reflected a three per cent decline in soda, which offset improved performance by noncarbonated drinks such as Powerade. Last week, PepsiCo said its soda volume fell in the "mid-single digits."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# PUPPET MASTER PULLS HIS LAST STRING

Who's your favourite Muppet?

C'mon, I know you have one. Most people probably go with Miss Piggy, Kermit, Big Bird or Elmo.

Or maybe Bert & Ernie. There's an iconic New Yorker cover from the summer of Bert snuggling with Ernie, watching TV as the U.S. Supreme Court upholds gay marriage.

But I digress.

You can tell a lot about someone from his or her favourite Muppet. If you're a regular reader you're probably not surprised that I favour the wacky fringe Muppets (especially purple fringe), non-specific species such as Cookie Monster, Animal, Gonzo and the Swedish Chef.

And the Yeppers, multi-headed long-necked beasts that only say "Yep." The Yeppers get me every time.

But my favourite Muppet, hands down (pardon the puppet joke), is Sweetums. Sweetums is a nine-foot, hairy ogre with a big red nose and sharp teeth. Of course, like every Muppet, he's completely



**JUST SAYIN'**  
**Paul Sullivan**  
metronews.ca

harmless, except if you're Kermit.

Sweetums is notorious for turning up whenever Kermit's around and announcing: "Sweetums eat frog now!" then giving chase. It's worth noting that in Muppetland, Kermit is still very much alive.

Which sadly, is not the case with Kermit and Sweetums' creator, Jim Henson, who died a tragic early death at 53 in 1990. Now his son John, a frequent Sweetums puppeteer and voice, has died of a heart attack at 48.

Jim Henson's death was particularly bizarre. He thought he had the flu, but very quickly became gravely ill and died of streptococcal toxic shock syndrome. Jim's wife and John's mother Jane died last year, suffering from cancer and paralysis, at 78.

John, who grew up in the family business, is re-

membered as an artist with an eye for detail, which he inherited from his dad.

It is a sad irony that this family who brought so much joy to the world has experienced so much suffering.

The family business will continue, but with John's death, I wonder if it will continue to be centred in the sly, generous satire that has elevated the Muppets beyond mere foolery. Like Fraggle Rock, which Henson produced in Toronto for a syndicate that included the CBC. Fraggle Rock was populated by a ridiculous sub-species called the Doozers; green, six-inch, dough-like creatures complete with hard hats who tirelessly and mindlessly erected structures that the Fraggles would absent-mindedly break off and snack on, which didn't faze the Doozers, as it kept them gainfully employed. A wonderfully wry and ridiculous commentary on relationships, mindful or otherwise.

The Muppets may be the only show with built-in critics, Statler and Waldorf, two irascible old grouches who sit in the balcony and carp amusingly about the proceedings.

So there's more to the Muppets than the letter A or the number 1. In fact even the number 1 comes with a purple vampire, Count von Count, who "loves to count."

I hope there's a heaven. Of course, if there isn't, the Hensons will just build it and populate it with the marvellous products of their remarkable imaginations. They're that good.

## ZOOM

### Does this look familiar?



JOE PEPLER/REX

#### It's really not as high as it looks

What's this, London, England's under siege from savage-looking marauders? No, silly, it's just The Wall from the hit series Game of Thrones. HBO commissioned artists 3D Joe and Max to recreate the famed 480-kilometres-long and 215-metres-tall wall, in Bishop's Square, to celebrate the release of season three on DVD and Blu-ray.

METRO WORLD NEWS

#### Get your climbing crampons on

The Wall, protected by the Night's Watch, keeps the evil White Walkers at bay. Londoners are encouraged to "scale" the wall like character Jon Snow. Fans of the U.S.-owned HBO program, who would prefer to stay in the comfort of their own home, haven't got long to wait for season four of the show, which is due to air in early April. METRO WORLD NEWS

#### Artists' view

"We knew we had to do something really special to match the sheer scale of this phenomenal TV show that has swept the globe."

Joe Hill, founder of 3D Joe and Max

#### Clickbait



**LUKE SIMCOE**  
Metro Online



GETTY IMAGES

With news that athletes are using Tinder to hook up in Sochi's Olympic Village, it seems we've reached a peak in dating apps. There are now a host of apps that fuse technology and flirting, letting you find partners based on location, dietary preferences or how many mutual connections you have on LinkedIn. However, if you find yourself bored, give these hookup apps a spin.

#### Wingman:

Billing itself as Tinder for the mile-high club, this app lets you flirt with your fellow airplane passengers. The app has yet to launch, but it promises to work over Bluetooth, just in case your 3G service conks out at 30,000 feet.

#### Kimye:

This iPhone dating simulator puts you inside Kanye's leather jogging pants as

he tries to woo Kim Kardashian. Options include dropping a new record to get her attention.

#### Spreadsheets:

If you've ever found yourself exclaiming that your sex life needs more data analysis, then this cleverly-titled app is for you. Using your phone's microphone and accelerometer, the app determines how successful your coital encounter was.

#### Twitter

@metropicks asked: Russia's panties are in a twist over lacy lingerie trade ban. What type of clothing would you ban?

@igor\_mariano: crocs

@Canucklehead\_ca: Speedos. Oh, and whatever this is called - the Borat?

@GeeDubayou: UGGs and yoga pants.

@Mystz: anything from the 80's! :-P

@Metro\_DK: Skinny jeans with the arse hanging to the ground. #ban-them

@EvanDentremont: yoga pants if

not actually doing yoga. Likewise for hockey jerseys.

@mtlkeith: 70,s leisure wear. :(((

@CJBondo: I think the real article deserving a ban are the pants sported by the Russian curling team.

@WillyRBeek: anything and everything with the Montreal Canadians logo printed on it.

@sarahrhbeichi: cargo shorts, yuck

@ctmwyn: I'd gladly bid farewell to leggings as pants. #BuhByeOver-sharers

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

#### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

Send us your comments: londonletters@metronews.ca



# SCENE 2

## Pompeii actioner latest flick to rake over the ancient ashes

### Rebirth of Vesuvius.

It's the volcanic mount that keeps on erupting, as Resident Evil director offers up his sword-and-sandal take



**IN FOCUS**  
Richard Crouse  
scene@metronews.ca

It's said the people of Pompeii regarded the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D. with "a response more of curiosity than of alarm." The volcano had burped and belched as many as 50 times over the years, so most of the city's 20,000 citizens didn't pay attention when Vesuvius started to gurgle.

Perhaps they were too busy visiting one of the city's many brothels — like a proto-Las Vegas, this was the richest city of ancient times, ripe with amenities and vice — or enjoying their lunches of broad beans, olives, dormice (plumped up by chefs in terracotta jars) or even garum, made from the first blood of a still-gasping mackerel, to detect the cloud of deadly volcanic ash headed their way.

By the end of the day the dust "poured across the land," claiming 2,000 lives. Buried beneath, "a darkness... like the black of closed and unlighted rooms." The remains of Pompeii and its people were preserved, left untouched for two millennia.

Today the ancient city of Pompeii is one of the most



Paul W.S. Anderson's Pompeii burns with love as a slave-turned-gladia- tor tries to save his girl from eternal preservation. CONTRIBUTED

### Sending up the doom and gloom

"I say, Lurcio, how did my speech go?"

"Master, you brought the house down!"

Conversation between emperor and servant in the 1971 comedy Up Pompeii.

popular attractions in Italy, drawing almost three million tourists annually. But if you can't make it to the Italian region of Campania, a new movie aims to recreate the experience for you.

Pompeii stars Kit Harington, Carrie-Anne Moss, Emily

Browning and Kiefer Sutherland in a love story about a slave-turned-gladia- tor (Harington) who must rescue his beloved, Cassia (Browning), before a rolling mountain of lava and ash dooms her to the ages.

The big action adventure take on the story directed by

Resident Evil helmer Paul W.S. Anderson has an ancestor in The Last Days of Pompeii, a 1913 silent sword-and-sandal movie based on the Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton novel of the same name. That book has been remade eight times.

The most famous version came in 1959. The big budget CinemaScope production was to have been directed by Mario Bonnard, but when he fell ill on the first day of shooting, screenwriter Sergio Leone (who would go on to make classics like The Good, the Bad and the Ugly) stepped in. It's big on

pageantry, just as the advertising taglines would suggest. It's a "Fiery Summit of Spectacle," the posters screamed, promising an inside look at, "the City that Lived in Sin and Died in Flame!"

Certainly it's more puffed-up than Up Pompeii, a 1971 Frankie Howerd comedy that featured a speech by emperor Ludicrus Sextus during Vesuvius' eruption.

"I say, Lurcio, how did my speech go?" he asks his servant as the city crumbles.

"Master, you brought the house down!"

metro

# IMAGINE LONDON

Coming Monday, February 24, 2014



# Wild Cub find maturity in Youth

**Nashville bound.** Why Keegan DeWitt left the indie-pop mecca of Brooklyn for the South

ALEXANDRA  
CAVALLO  
Metro World News

Most people looking to get a band off the ground move to Brooklyn. Keegan DeWitt got the hell out.

The Wild Cub front man had spent the better part of eight years living in New York, working as a composer for commercials and film soundtracks — and successfully, at that. (Innocent, an Oscar-winning short documentary, for which he composed the score, was nominated for an Academy Award in 2013.) Still, he struggled to make ends meet.

"I spent a lot of my time learning how to bankroll living in New York, which is just such a big waste of effort," he says.

"I feel like I got a lot out my time there, and New York is such a fundamental part of who I am now, and it shaped me as a person a lot, but at some point, I was like, 'I'm succeeding half-way at my artistic career, and I'm only putting 50 per cent of my effort into my day job, and not being very good at that. Maybe I should go to Nashville, where I can put 100 per cent toward pursuing my art.'"

So he did. Brooklyn might be the unofficial indie music capital of the U.S., but it's also saturated with fairly interchangeable young bands struggling to establish themselves.

That's one thing that drew DeWitt away from Brooklyn and towards Nashville.

"The music business is changing, and that's one of the places that it's maybe changing in a good way," he says.

"In Nashville, there's a strong burden of proof, in terms of having to write songs that have content to them. There are such long lines of songwriters that come from there that really write songs, legit songs. If there's anything that modern music is missing, at the moment, especially hip indie music, it's actual songs. So that's one cool thing. You're getting people that are really experimenting with new ways of making music but at the same time understand what it means to tell a narrative using the structure of the song."

Plus, the cost of living down South is just cheaper. "I kept looking around in Brooklyn going, how in the f— are you guys paying for this?" he laughs. "Are



Keegan DeWitt, left, hooked up with a multi-instrumentalist to form Wild Cub when he moved to Nashville. ALLISTER ANN

## Take note, Brooklyn hipsters

**"In Nashville, there's a strong burden of proof, in terms of having to write songs that have content to them."**

Wild Cub frontman Keegan DeWitt

we all on trust funds, because I know I'm not. How are you doing this? Just hanging out and being in a band?"

These days, just hanging out and being in a band is pretty much DeWitt's main occupation. In Nashville, he hooked up with multi-instrumentalist Jeremy Bullock to form Wild Cub, a fuzzed-out, synth-pop quintet whose debut album, *Youth*, dropped earlier this year.

Wild Cub might not yet be a household name, but most people are likely familiar with their single *Thunder Clatter*, an ode to DeWitt's wife (whom he married right around the same time he started writing *Youth*) buoyed by uptempo percussion and balmy beats.

Learning to play well with others hasn't been an entirely seamless transition for DeWitt.

"I think one thing is true that, as the person who has to sing it every night, it's difficult

to connect with things that you haven't written the entirety of," he says. "It's like in a play, you can do a certain amount of preparation as an actor, but things really start to take on a dynamic when you interact with somebody else. That's where the drama takes place, and I like to think that some of that is true in terms of me having to collaborate with band members."

That said, DeWitt isn't interested in stealing the show. "I think in general, every year that I get older, the less I desire to be the main person that everyone is looking at. I try and think of it more as a literal thing, like it's my job to be just one more piece of what's happening on stage, in terms of how we're telling the story to people, and the urgency or drama or physicality that I bring to it is all in service of helping people connect with



Keegan DeWitt COURTESY BRIAN DOBEN

the songs in a more immediate way."

At 31, DeWitt has developed a fairly mature perspective on life. But he stresses that *Youth* isn't about any kind of nostalgia for where he's been, or what he could have done.

"You look around, and you just start to see all the people around you being shaped by a very simple thing — either them getting exactly what they wanted, or them not getting what they thought they deserved or wanted in life,"

he explains. "I was afraid that, through the refinement of growing up, you learn to either close yourself or open up, and that I was going to miss the one thing that I was desiring in my life, which was to meet someone to pair my life with. That I was going to shut myself off because of all the disappointments of growing up and getting older, and miss the one thing that I actually wanted. But there's a lot more a celebration (in the album) of 'Wow, somehow I navigated that, and here is this person.'"

## Solitary vs. collab

Shifting from the solitary job of composing soundtracks to collaborating with bandmates can't be the easiest transition, but DeWitt says it's been an exciting change of pace.

- "The nice thing about composing is that you can use restraint. You can just hit a single note and it can have a huge ripple effect if it's paired with the right thing, timing-wise," he says.

- "With a band you can also do something else. It's like at any moment that's been really big in your life, there's never been just one single emotion that comes. It's not one-dimensional, it's a multitude of things. You're happy, but you're also terrified, but you also feel invincible, but also crippled by the pressure of whether or not you can do something. A band gives you the ability to tackle a lot more nuanced emotions... You can dig at that more complex stuff."



# METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

## The Word

### Look what the Cat dragged in: Ariana Grande to duet with Chris Brown

MELINDA TAUB

Metro World News

Today in terrible ideas: Pop starlet Ariana Grande is apparently recording a duet with dreadful human Chris Brown. The two teased their fans on Twitter with what appear to be lyrics from an upcoming collaboration:

**"I dug a single seed into the ground, I hope it**



grows"

— Chris Brown (@chrisbrown) Feb. 16, 2014

**"in a year or two if you're around, you'll see a rose"**  
— Ariana Grande (@Ariana-

Grande) Feb. 16, 2014

After a fan inquired, Ariana confirmed that it's an upcoming song.

Why anyone would think this could be good for Ariana's career is beyond me. The star of Nickelodeon's Sam & Cat, who has such a squeaky clean image that she regularly wears a bow in her hair without a whiff of irony, should not be anywhere near Rihanna-battering human rage ball Chris Brown. Both for career reasons and for her personal safety.

On the bright side, judging by those lyrics, the song will be very bad, so at least I won't have to feel guilty about wanting to download it.



Melissa Joan Hart ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

### Sabrina the Teenage Witch star says she was wild at Hart, just never got caught

When she was a teen star, Melissa Joan Hart enjoyed a fairly squeaky-clean image, but now she admits it was just easier to hide things back then. "It wasn't that I wasn't a bad girl or that I was too much of a good girl, it was that I never got caught," the former Sabrina, the Teenage Witch star explains to Giuliana Rancic in an interview. For example? The night before her first photo shoot for Maxim magazine, Hart let her hair down in a big way. "You're in underwear, so I was feeling a little shy. I actually ended

up rolling with some friends, doing ecstasy and going in a limo to my first Playboy Mansion party," she says. And she also admits that she found then-17-year-old co-star Ryan Reynolds a bit too hard to resist when they filmed the Sabrina, the Teenage Witch TV movie — especially after Reynolds gave her a Bulova watch as a wrap gift. "I chased him down, got in front of his car and just kissed him and then made out with him all night. Then I had to call my boyfriend the next day and explain it," she says.

### Twilight star tired of playing fame game



Robert Pattinson

Looks like Shia LaBeouf has some company, as Twilight star Robert Pattinson "doesn't want to be famous anymore," a friend of the actor tells Radar Online. "The cost of fame is the thing he and (ex-girlfriend) Kristen (Stewart) used to complain about all day, that hasn't changed at all for him" since their split. So Pattinson "is looking at a whole new approach to his future and is even considering going to theatre school," the pal claims. "Rob's been talking to a lot of independent filmmakers, and the last thing he wants to do is act in another blockbuster. He would like to direct a movie one day." Because directors, of course, aren't famous.

### Aniston says domo arigato but no arigato to Japan

Japanese fans of Jennifer Aniston are just going to make do with viewing their idol from afar, at least until the country does something about its dolphin-hunting practises, according to Radar Online. "Jen travels the world to promote her films, but there's a strong exception — and that's going to Japan," a source close to the actress says. "She doesn't allow herself to be contractually required to travel to Japan because of that country's policies toward fishing and specifically the treatment of dolphins. She has vowed not



Jennifer Aniston

to go to Japan until the country's policies change."

### Belgium thaws Madonna's Frozen



Madonna

Good news, Belgium! You can finally listen to Madonna's 1998 single Frozen again. The track was banned from being purchased or played in Belgium in November 2005 after Madonna lost a copyright infringement lawsuit brought by Belgian songwriter Acquaiva, who claimed the track used the intro to his 1979 song Ma Vie Fout L'camp without permission, according to the Bulletin. But a second lawsuit brought by composer Edouard Scotto Di Suoccio claiming that both Madonna and Acquaiva had actually ripped off his song Bloodnight prompted authorities to re-examine the case, and they've now determined that no sufficient plagiarism took place in either instance.

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# Stay on track on your Euro trip

**Quick jaunt.** By taking advantage of Europe's high-speed train system, you can cram in three great cities in less than a week

KAREN KWAN  
life@metronews.ca

With detailed planning and travelling by high-speed train, you can fit in the top sights in Madrid, Barcelona and Paris in less than one week — leaving you with vacation days for another holiday.

## Day one

Check into the 19th-century-palace-turned-boutique-hotel Único Madrid, then get your retail fix right in this upscale neighbourhood, Salamanca. At the Museo del Prado, see works from Goya, Velázquez and Rembrandt, then next door, enjoy more than 30,000 plants and flowers at Real Jardín Botánico de Madrid. For dinner, walk from Único to Oter Epicure (order the melt-in your-mouth Iberico ham).

## Day two

Spend a quiet morning at the leafy Parque del Retiro. For a tapas lunch (pimientos de padron and tortilla, anyone?), hit up Mercado de San Miguel. Take the subway to Plaza de Toros de Las Ventas for a self-guided tour of this



Catch a sunset in Barcelona on your whirlwind tour. MOYAN BRENN/FICKR

historic bullfighting ring. Snap some requisite photos in Plaza Mayor, the square at the centre of the city, then tour Palacio Real, where the grand decor and paintings from Giordano, Tiepolo and Velázquez will make you want to live like royalty.

## Day three

With your Eurail pass — which connects trains run by national train operators in 27 European countries — go to Atocha station, and take a moment to take in its stunning tropical garden. Hop on a high-speed train (some of which can travel as fast as 355 km/hr) and arrive two and a half hours later in Barcelona. Drop your bags at the modern Hotel Indigo.



Get your retail fix with shopping in Madrid. MOYAN BRENN/FICKR

Stroll pedestrian boulevard La Rambla. When peckish, stop at La Boqueria market for warm mushroom salad and pulpo gallega. Fit in one Gaudi site — Parc Güell if it's nice out or Casa Batlló if the

weather is inclement.

## Day four

Head to La Sagrada Família early to beat the crowds at this unfinished Gaudi masterpiece. Afterwards,

## More info

To plan your trip or get more information on the Eurail Pass, visit [eurail.com](http://eurail.com).

take the metro to Barceloneta. Grab a seafood lunch in this fisherman's quarter, then stroll down Passeig Joan de Borbó and kick back for the rest of the day at Platja de la Barceloneta.

## Day five

Board a Paris-bound high-speed train with your Eurail pass and arrive six and a half hours later. Check into the conveniently located Millennium Hotel Paris Opéra. Grab a bite at Café Diane in the pretty Tuileries Garden, then with a list of your must-see pieces of art in hand, make a quick visit to the Louvre.

## Day six

A quick stop by the Eiffel Tower is a must, non? Afterwards, if it's Wednesday or Sunday, pick up delicious provisions at nearby Marché du Pont de l'Alma. From here, take a Bateau Mouche ride for a fantastic view of the city. Next, walk the crooked narrow streets in Le Marais and stumble upon historic buildings, including the beautiful Place des Vosges. At night, a drink in the buzzy Saint-Germain-des-Près neighbourhood at Les Deux Magots or Café de Flore will complete your quickie trip.

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# Take a walk on the wizard side

## Universal Orlando.

Theme park gets set to launch attractions guaranteed to make muggles happy

DEAN  
LISK

dean.lisk@metronews.ca

What's old is new — or at least re-imagined — again at Universal Orlando Resort in Florida. Many of the park's attractions are getting pop-culture injections and technological facelifts to keep up with visitors' expectations to be amazed, entertained and, of course, well fed.

Central to the park's changes is the recent unveiling of Diagon Alley, the secret London side street only accessible to the wizarding world in Harry Potter. Even muggles — humans without special powers, for anyone not familiar with the world of Potter — can soon shop where Hogwarts students purchase their

school supplies.

Mark Woodbury, vice-president of Universal Creative, gave the Toronto Star and Metro Canada an exclusive Canadian sneak peek behind the closely guarded security fence of the still-under-construction attraction, which opens this summer.

Created by author J.K. Rowling, Diagon Alley is a hidden road in modern London open only to wizards. The tilting buildings in the alley are the setting of some of the most exciting scenes in the Potter series.

"When people come in they are going to have a first impression of something that is totally mind-boggling," said Woodbury.

Still emerging from the sand-covered ground, punctuated by scaffolding, concrete and wiring, is a scaled-down London, complete with Kings Cross and Charing Cross railway stations, Leicester Square and Wyndham's Theatre. Park guests will walk through one of the city's brick walls and into the magical alley — the

details of how are a secret.

Inside the park, visitors will eat at the Leaky Cauldron, visit Ollivanders Wand Shop or buy a novelty item at the Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes. At the far end of the alley is the goblin-operated Gringotts Wizarding Bank; a large fire-breathing dragon will be perched on the roof of the building.

It will also be home to Universal Orlando's newest ride, Harry Potter and the Escape from Gringotts. "It really brings to life the movie," Woodbury said.

Diagon Alley is the second Harry Potter-related experience at Universal's Orlando parks. In 2010, it opened The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, located in Islands of Adventure, which welcomes visitors to Hogwarts castle and the Scottish mountain village of Hogsmeade.

Park guests will soon be shuttled between the two sites onboard the Hogwarts Express. Leaving King's Cross Station, the train will travel along an elevated track through the concrete build-

ings and paved roads of the anything-but-Potter-like Universal backlot before arriving at the gate of Hogsmeade. Information about the length, time and cost of the trip are as safely guarded as the recipe for butterbeer, a popular drink at The Wizarding World.

Woodbury said special technology, details of which were not part of the announcement, will make passengers think they are travelling through the hedged English countryside and rugged Scottish hills when they look out the train's windows. "Physically it is in the park, but the experience is truly in another place," he said. "It is a dramatic experience."

A spell of change is also being cast at The Wizarding World. Woodbury says Zonko's Joke Shop in Hogsmeade will be incorporated into the soon-to-open Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes in Diagon, giving room for the neighbouring Honeydukes — a sweet shop — to expand.

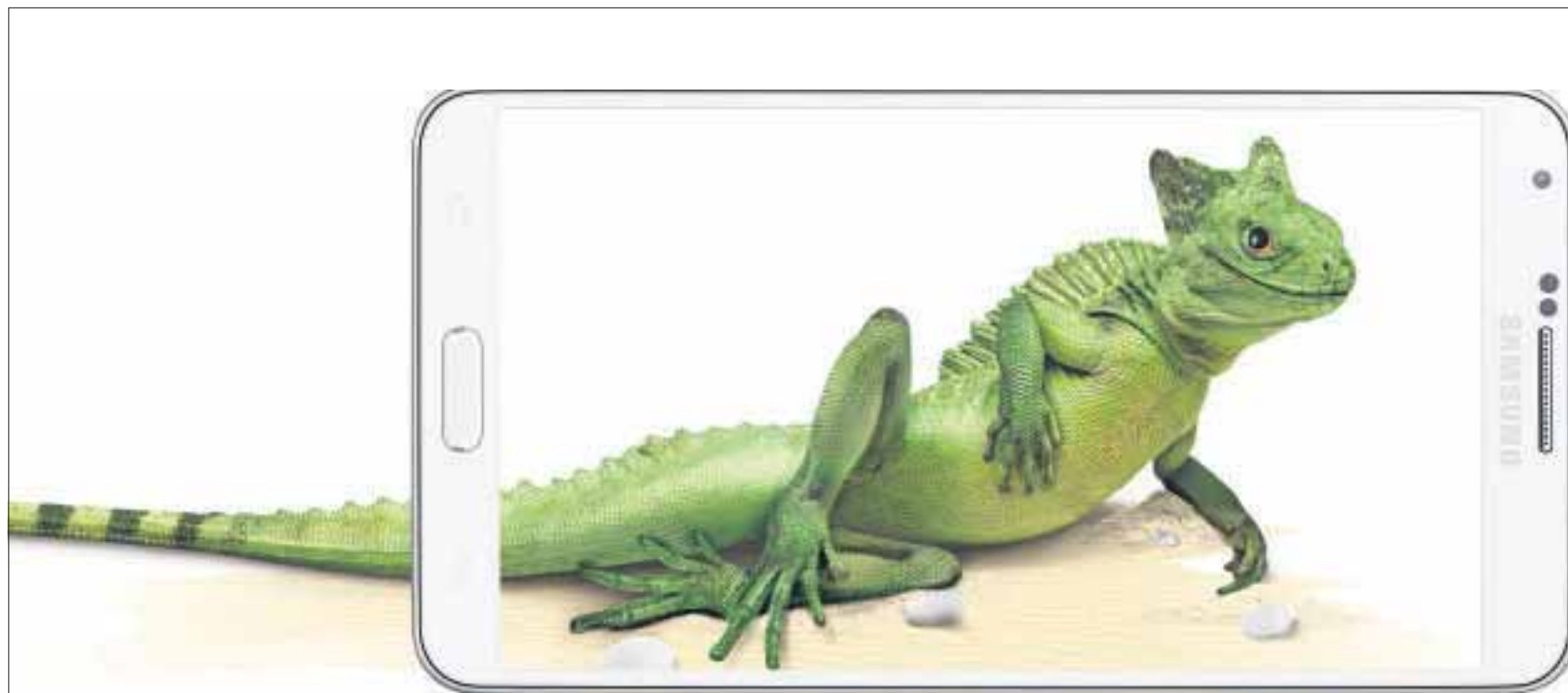
The Potter plans are just the latest in a series of updates to

Online

For more information, visit  
[universallorlando.com](http://universallorlando.com).

Universal's two parks. When it opened in 1999, the Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man broke new ground with dark-ride tricks and motion simulation. To keep a rider's Spidey sense tingling, it underwent a hi-def redo two years ago.

Over in Springfield (state unknown) U.S.A., resort chef Steven Jayson, who helped bring butterbeer to the masses, has developed a menu of food inspired by the Simpsons TV series. Park visitors can saddle up next to Barney at Moe's Tavern for a Flaming Moe or Duff beer or enjoy a burger at Krusty Burger. Chicken and waffles are a popular choice at Cleatus' Chicken Shack, while Lard Lad Donuts offers pie-sized doughnuts topped in pink icing.



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## A Cabana to call home. New resort a nostalgic riff on the family road trip



Fun for the whole family awaits at the Cabana Bay Beach Resort. CONTRIBUTED

Universal Orlando is recreating the classic family road trip with its newest hotel complex, the Cabana Bay Beach Resort. Located steps from the park, the design was inspired by mid-century hotels such as those in the Wildwood, N.J., historic resort district.

### The property

The north end of the property is slated to open March 31, and features 600 rooms that are spread over three open-corridor buildings, each named after an iconic hotel: the Starlight, Castaway and Thunderbird.

### The pool area

The three buildings surround a 10,000-square-foot pool, with a dive tower-inspired fountain, 17 cabanas and the Atomic Tonic pool bar. The south end of the hotel will feature 1,200 rooms in two seven-story towers with a similar-sized pool area between them.

### Entertainment

A ramp leads from the pool areas of both wings into the upper floor of the main building—avoiding the lobby altogether—where guests will find a fitness centre, games room, bowling alley and cafeteria-style eating at Bayliner Diner.

### Family friendly

The rooms are designed with families in mind. A sliding wall separates the two-bed sleeping area from a small sitting area, complete with a queen size pullout. The bathroom is separated into a toilet, shower and sink area, so multiple family members can get ready at once. The suites also come with a small kitchenette with microwave and fridge.

Cabana Bay Beach Resort will open this summer. A standard room will rent for roughly \$119 US a night, and the suites for \$174 US.

METRO

### Bucket List



## The Mangroves at San Blas, Mexico

Once a prominent Pacific port, this small fishing town of 10,000 between Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta is home to 30 km of beaches, winding estuaries, mangrove swamps and one of the most important natural bird shelters in the Western Hemisphere. In La Tovara National Park, you can find more than 300 different species of birds — pelicans, terns, egrets, blue heron, the works — not to mention ocelots and quite a few crocodiles. A boat tour through the watery maze of vegetation and wildlife will remind you of every prison escape movie ever made. San Blas is also home to the Riviera Nayarit region's unsung hero of Mexican cuisine, chef Betty Vázquez from El Delfin Restaurant.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

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# An education on earning a couple of bucks

## School of hard jobs?

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Let's face it — as a student, it's easy to feel broke. Between paying for tuition, textbooks, transit, rent and meals, there is often not much left for other things like entertainment and some good old fun. Many students hold the usual part-time jobs, but even that may not be earning you as much money as you'd like.

Here are some easy and quick ways that students can make some extra money.

If you can find some time in your busy schedule as a student and be a bit creative, you can find ways to make a little additional cash on the side. Even if it isn't a lot, as a student, a little can



As a secret shopper you can make up to \$10-25 per job for your time and even get free snacks, meals or movie tickets while you're at it. iStock

certainly go a long way.

### School contests

Be sure to check out various contests being held at your college or university because

most of them offer cash, gift cards or other prizes. For example, at Toronto's Humber College, students can win cash just for sending in a short video of themselves. Does your school offer some-

thing similar? Find out.

### Write for the school newspaper

If you have a passion for writing and reporting school

## Get money to spend money? Sounds good to me!

Become a mystery shopper and get paid to give feedback on your shopping experiences, by taking part in activities such as shopping for clothes or dining in restaurants.

- The mystery shopping company that you work for gives you detailed guidelines on where to shop and what to look for. Your job is to provide detailed notes on the overall experience, including the level of customer service, the attitudes of the employees and the store atmosphere.

events, then writing for the school newspaper is an excellent way to make some money on the side. Some school newspapers also offer prizes to students just for sending in their submissions, whether it's an opinion piece, some artwork or even a poem. Contributing content not only helps you earn, it may also help you grow a professional network. You can also try out other freelance work such as photography or web design.

### Be a website tester

Many companies pay people just to come and test their

websites before they are launched or to offer feedback that's used to tweak and improve the sites. Testers are tasked with navigating the website at hand, while a "screen and audio recorder" takes note of your clicks, keyboard strokes and personal comments as you test the website for 15 minutes. For each website tested, you can earn approximately \$10. Don't worry, your actual face is not recorded — there is no webcam.

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# You don't need an oven for comfort-food perfection



This recipe makes eight servings. HEALTH CANADA

**Slow-Cooked Lasagna.** Prep this before you leave for work and come home to a delicious meal that just needs a salad



**DINNER EXPRESS**  
Emily Richards  
food@metronews.ca

Let your slow cooker do the work and come home to this easy, heartwarming Simple Slow-Cooked Lasagna.

Swap in other greens or

cooked vegetables to change things up.

This recipe works best in an oval- or rectangle-shaped slow cooker. If you're using a round slow cooker, you may need to break up the lasagna sheets a bit more.

1. Lightly spray inside of slow cooker with cooking spray.

2. In nonstick skillet, brown beef, breaking up with spoon. Scrape out beef into a colander and let drain. Wipe out skillet and return to medium heat; cook beef, onion, garlic, oregano and hot pepper flakes 5 minutes or until softened. Add passata and water

and remove from heat.

3. In a bowl, stir together ricotta cheese, spinach, basil and Parmesan cheese.

4. Spread some of the meat sauce over bottom of slow cooker. Lay lasagna noodles in a single layer, breaking as necessary to fit. Top with one quarter of the sauce and one third of the cheese mixture.

Repeat layers twice ending with meat sauce on top. Cover and cook on Low for 6 to 8 hours or on High for 3 to 4 hours. About 15 minutes before serving lasagna, sprinkle mozzarella over top, cover and let cook on Low until melted.

**CHECK OUT THE HEALTHYCANADIANS.GC.CA WEBSITE FOR MORE WINTER RECIPES, PERFECT FOR DINNER AND MORE**

## Ingredients

- 227 g (8 oz) extra lean ground beef
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 10 ml (2 tsp) dried oregano
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) hot pepper flakes
- 1 jar (700 ml) tomato passata
- 250 ml (1 cup) water
- 1 tub (475 g) 1 % cottage or light ricotta cheese
- 1 pkg (142 g/5 oz) baby spinach, chopped
- 60 ml (1/4 cup) chopped fresh basil or parsley
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) grated Parmesan cheese
- 10 whole wheat or regular lasagna noodles
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) shredded part skim mozzarella



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# Snowstorm no match for Riddle's twists



**Ski halfpipe.** Alberta freestyle skier conquers challenging conditions to win silver medal in Olympic debut of competition

A big blast of winter weather finally arrived at the Sochi Games on Tuesday night, dumping a big helping of thick snow just in time for the Olympic debut of the men's ski halfpipe competition.

The challenging conditions didn't faze Canada's Mike Riddle at all. The veteran freestyle skier stuck with his plan to unveil a new combination for his final run and it helped him win a silver medal.

"I managed to link together some tricks that I haven't done before," Riddle said. "I couldn't be happier with the result."

Riddle hit back-to-back double cork 1260's for the first time — three and-a-half rotations with two twists per trick — and it was enough to wow the judges at Rosa Khutor Extreme Park. The

rest of his run was clean and it earned him a score of 90.60 points.

"Just to be here is unbelievable and then to get a medal — I'm speechless," he said.

American David Wise took the gold with a total of 92.00 and Kevin Rolland of France won bronze with 88.60 points. Calgary's Noah Bowman finished fifth while Justin Dorey of Vernon, B.C., missed jumps in both his final runs and ended up 12th.

Riddle won a world title in 2011 and took the overall World Cup crown last season.

"I did have more in the arsenal that I wanted to bring out but conditions made it kind of impossible to maintain speed," he said.

Riddle had reached the top 10 in his last 12 competitions entering the Games. He was sixth after a mediocre first run.

"You had to land really high on the transitions to be able to maintain speed for your next trick in order to link together your run," he said. "So if you weren't perfect, you were done, basically. Every trick had to be pretty much perfect."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Mike Riddle of Canada performs a trick in the men's ski halfpipe competition on Tuesday in Sochi, Russia.

MIKE EHLMANN/GETTY IMAGES

## Remembering Sarah Burke

Ski halfpipe was making its Olympic debut thanks in part to the efforts of Canada's Sarah Burke, who died in a training accident in 2012.

- "This Olympics for me is

definitely bittersweet," Mike Riddle said. "It's awesome to be here but I know that she should be here too. She's been on my mind a lot this week."

# Canadians find silver lining on short track



Canada's Marie-Eve Drolet, left, Valérie Maltais and Marianne St-Gelais react upon learning they won the silver medal in the women's 3,000-metre relay on Tuesday in Sochi. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

It was a bittersweet day for Canada's Olympic short-track speedskating team.

Gold-medal hopeful Charles Hamelin crashed out of the 500-metre heats on Tuesday, but within the hour Canada's women's 3,000-metre relay team won a silver medal.

"We feel great. We are really happy to have got the silver medal," said speedskater Jessica Hewitt. "I have never been on an (Olympic) podium before and we have worked very hard for this."

South Korea won gold in the women's relay with a time of four minutes 9.498 seconds, followed closely by China. However, the Chinese were disqualified because their skaters did not immediately leave the track after passing off to their teammates.

That bumped the Canadian team of Marie-Eve Drolet, Hewitt, Valérie Maltais and Marianne St-Gelais up from third place. Canada's final time was 4:10.641.

"We tried a different strat-

egy here; making the exchange on different corners, so it got a little messy at times but we did well and then it just so happened that China were disqualified so we got the silver," said Hewitt. "We tried to put our best foot forward and to be there at the end of the race."

THE CANADIAN PRESS





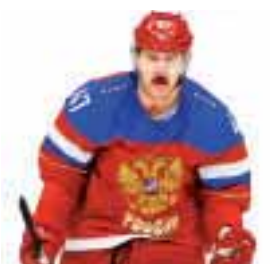
## Russia 4, Norway 0. Relief in Sochi as hosts advance

When Alexander Radulov pumped both fists and let loose a jubilant scream, an entire hockey nation also exhaled for a day.

Although the Russians are labouring through their home Olympics, a few timely goals and two brilliant goalies are keeping them alive.

Radulov had two goals and an assist, and Russia survived its first elimination game with a 4-0 win Tuesday over Norway.

Sergei Bobrovsky made 22 saves in the second straight shutout for the fifth-seeded Rus-



Alexander Radulov GETTY IMAGES

sians, who earned a date with Finland in the quarter-finals Wednesday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Czech Rep. 5, Slovakia 3

### Cervenka seals victory in 2nd

Roman Cervenka scored for a second time late in the second period to give the Czech Republic a four-goal lead, and it went on to beat Slovakia 5-3 on Tuesday and advance to an Olympic quarter-final match against the United States.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Slovenia 4, Austria 0

### Sweden set to test feel-good story

Slovenia added another chapter to its feel-good story.

The Slovenes beat Austria 4-0 on Tuesday in the men's hockey Olympic qualification round and play top-seeded Sweden on Wednesday in the first of four quarter-final games. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## Latvia 3, Swiss 1. Canada awaits upset winners

Latvia's reward for its first Olympic win in 12 years is a quarter-final date with defending champion Canada.

That sobering realization couldn't dampen the thrill for coach Ted Nolan and his underdog players.

Oskars Bartulis and Lauris Darzins scored in the first period, and Latvia reached the Olympic men's hockey quarter-finals for the first time with a

Uncharted territory

**"No one has done it before, so it's unbelievable to be in the quarter-finals and beat the Swiss."**

Latvia's only active NHLer, Zemgus Girgensons

3-1 win over Switzerland Tuesday night. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

# 'We just need one more than the other team'

**Style points don't count.** Team Canada still adjusting to big ice, but winning remains bottom line

No matter which forwards Team Canada dresses for its quarter-final, they've combined to score well over 300 goals in the NHL this season.

No team in Sochi features that kind of depth, and yet one concern going into Wednesday's game against Latvia is a lack of offence up front. As this becomes a single-elimination tournament, Canada doesn't need 300 goals.

"We just need one more than the other team," Babcock said.

Getting that one big, important goal could make or break Canada moving forward. As the game against Finland showed, offence can be tough to come by on the international ice, especially against well-structured European opponents.

Finding a way to get to the middle of the ice and closer to the net was a major emphasis in practice Tuesday and could be the difference between reaching the semifinals and going home early.

"You watch our games and we've been on the outside a lot," said winger Corey Perry,



Sidney Crosby talks with Canada's starting goalie, Carey Price, during practice on Tuesday in Sochi. Asked about Olympic pressure Tuesday, Price replied: "I live inside a bubble anyway. I don't get into too much about what anybody has to say, really." **NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

who will have a new linemate in Jamie Benn between him and Ryan Getzlaf. "To get shots to the net, to get second opportunities, that's what the three of us are going to do."

For all the talk about the big ice in advance of Sochi, it has made a difference — but not the way some figured.

Just because there's more space doesn't necessarily mean there's more room to get creative offensively.

The Canadians

scored six goals against Austria after scoring three in the opener against Norway, but it was against Finland where they learned a lesson. Holding onto the puck in the offensive zone paved the way for plenty of shots, but it was like a basketball team trying to shoot just from the outside. With a rink that's 15 feet wider, it's much more difficult to get quality scoring chances.

"You're a long ways from the net when you're hanging out on the wall," said Jeff Carter, who leads all Canadian forwards with three goals. "We talked about that and maybe trying to shrink the ice a little bit and getting to the (faceoff) dot lines and just kind of



Not so beautiful game on ice

**"I almost like to say it's comparable to soccer, almost, because the game feels very neutral."**

Centre Jonathan Toews on the international-sized ice in Sochi.

Still shuffling

At practice Tuesday, Chris Kunitz was reunited with Sidney Crosby on a line with Patrice Bergeron. Jamie Benn, who played with Crosby and Bergeron against Finland, was shifted to a unit with Ryan Getzlaf and Corey Perry.

- Patrick Marleau, Jonathan Toews and Jeff Carter remained together. Patrick Sharp and Rick Nash skated with John Tavares while Martin St. Louis and Matt Duchene rotated in and out of lines.

make it feel more like an NHL-size rink." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



# OVERTIME

## with Micheal Ray Richardson

Get the inside track on the London Lightning as Metro's Dave Langford chats with coach and former NBA star Micheal Ray, every Wednesday at metronews.ca





metronews.ca



# Defending champs sit behind U.S.

## Women's bobsled.

Canadians 0.23 seconds back, but they aren't stressing the numbers

Kaillie Humphries and Heather Moyse don't know how much work they still have to do if they want to defend their Olympic title.

It's just the way they like it.

Calgary's Humphries and Moyse, from Summerside, P.E.I., sit 0.23 seconds behind leaders Elana Meyers and Lauryn Williams of the United States after a pair of runs Tuesday.

"We don't really look at times so I don't even know

how big the gap is. And we don't want to know," said Humphries.

The gap isn't insurmountable, but the pair will need Meyers and Williams to slow down during Wednesday's final two runs after the Americans set a start and track record of 57.26 seconds in their first heat.

Meyers and Williams finished with a combined time of 1:54.89, just better than the 1:55.12 mark set by Humphries and Moyse.

Humphries wasn't going to be bothered by what she didn't know.

"We just try to have fun. Knowing where other people are just complicates that," she said.

Another American sled was third, with Jamie Greubel and Aja Evans 0.56 seconds behind their teammates.

Edmonton's Jenny Ciochetti and Chelsea Valois of Zenon Park, Sask., were 13th.

Humphries and Moyse, who took gold at the 2010 Vancouver Games, were favourites to repeat after winning three World Cup events this season and edging Meyers for the overall championship by one point.

But the stakes are much



Kaillie Humphries and Heather Moyse take a turn during a training session on Sunday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. MICHAEL SOHN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## The leaders

"It feels pretty good but we've got a lot of work to do.... Kaillie's a great driver. Jamie (Greubel)'s driving great as well. It's not over."

U.S. bobsledder Elana Meyers, who won bronze in Vancouver pushing for Erin Pac, on competing against the Canadians

higher in Sochi, and although the two are close friends after training and rooming together last summer, Meyers and Humphries are going hard for gold.

That Meyers and Williams are in the lead is a surprise given their shaky start to the event. The pair crashed during their initial training run and the following day they

damaged their sled after hitting a wall near the finish.

That's all behind them now.

"It feels pretty good but we've got a lot of work to do,"

said Meyers, who won bronze in Vancouver pushing for Erin Pac. "Kaillie's a great driver. Jamie's driving great as well. It's not over."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Hamelin after fall: 'This sport can be ... very cruel'



Charles Hamelin crashes out in a men's 500m short track speedskating heat at the Iceberg Skating Palace on Tuesday in Sochi. DAVID J. PHILLIP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It is as if his brother François's fall during the men's relay derailed Charles (the Locomotive) Hamelin.

After starting the 2014 Winter Games with a gold medal in the 1,500 metre race, Canada's top short-track speedskater inexplicably went into neutral.

There was talk of Hamelin taking medals in all four men's events, but that ended when his younger brother François stepped on a marker disc and fell, ending Canada's hopes of defending the relay gold they won in 2010 in Vancouver.

The bottle they symbolically

threw into the Black Sea containing their bad luck and frustration didn't change anything.

In two events since then, Charles Hamelin has fallen — in the 1,000 metre quarter-finals on Saturday and again Tuesday in his 500 metre heat — keeping him from even making the finals.

"Crazy bad luck," was how the Ste-Julie, Que. skater described the falls. "I have no explanation, no excuses."

It will be up to his teammates Charles Cournoyer of Boucherville, Que., and Olivier Jean of Lachenaie, Que., who

## Frustration

"I sat down, got out of my suit and I cried. I couldn't stop asking, 'Why?'"

Charles (the Locomotive) Hamelin after falling during his 500 metre heat and missing the finals

each won a 500 metre heat, to try for a medal on the final day of short track on Friday.

The latest setback left Hamelin very angry. He went off by himself for a while before returning to talk to the media.

"I was coming out of the dressing room when he came in and all I heard was crash, bang," said Hamelin's girlfriend, Marianne St-Gelais, a silver medallist on the women's relay team. "I'm glad I wasn't in there."

"I wanted to wreck everything in my path," said Hamelin. "I was really frustrated."

"This sport can be either great or very cruel," he said. "It's not the end of the world. I won gold in the 1,500 and that's a first for our team in that event."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Competitive imbalance

### Women's hockey here to stay: IIHF

Amid concerns about competitive imbalance between Canada and the United States and the rest of the countries involved, International Ice Hockey Federation president René Fasel on Tuesday guaranteed women's hockey would

not be taken out of the Olympics.

After NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said he would be "distressed" to see that happen, Fasel spoke up to reassure him.

"That will never happen," Fasel said. "I can guarantee that will never happen."

Bettman responded with: "Perfect, that's what I was hoping you would say."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Speedskating

### Shocker leads to Dutch's 4th sweep

Jorrit Bergsma set an Olympic record and led another Dutch speedskating sweep Tuesday, winning the 10,000 metres with an upset of countryman and favourite Sven Kramer, who settled for silver.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Biathlon

### Svendsen wins gold for Norway

Norway's Emil Hegle Svendsen edged French rival Martin Fourcade by the length of a ski tip Tuesday to win the last individual biathlon gold of the Sochi Olympics, the men's 15-kilometre mass start race.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Norway's Emil Hegle Svendsen leads France's Martin Fourcade during the men's biathlon 15k mass-start. FELIPE DANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# Britain clinches semis with Hail Mary throw

**Men's curling.** Skip scores game-winning double takeout to set matchup with Swedes

David Murdoch crouched into his curling stance, took a breath and released the rock that either would usher Britain into the semifinals or add another layer of woe to his Olympic career.

It was a tough shot — one of the biggest of his life — but the British skip didn't feel nervous at all.

The result was sheer perfection.

Murdoch scored two points



British skip David Murdoch celebrates his winning throw. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

from a double takeout with his game-deciding final shot to earn Britain a 6-5 win over Nor-

way in a tiebreaker Tuesday. It set up a date with Sweden in the semifinals, while Canada plays China.

"It is going to rank up there with the best shots I have ever played," Murdoch said. "To stay in the Olympics or be out of the Olympics in one shot."

With his team out of the Sochi Games, Norway skip Thomas Ulsrud hung his head and slumped to the ground near the hoardings at the end of the sheet of ice.

"I thought, 'This is not happening. Tell me it's a dream,'" Ulsrud said.

Britain has not won a medal in the men's tournament since 1998.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## OHL

### Knights earn fifth straight win in OT battle vs. Windsor

It was a playoff preview between the London Knights and Windsor Spitfires.

And in the final Ontario Hockey League regular-season meeting between the two Western Conference teams, the advantage went to the fourth-place Knights.

Matt Rupert scored in overtime as London defeated the fifth-place Spits 6-5, for its fifth straight win. It was also the fifth win in six games for the Knights in the season ser-

ies. The two teams are likely to play each other when the playoffs begin in the middle of March.

The Knights led 2-1 after the first period and 3-2 after the second.

Heading into OT, Bo Horvat, with a pair, Max Domi, Josh Anderson and Zach Bell scored for the Knights. Domi's goal and assist moved him into fifth place in league scoring with 29 goals and 53 assists for 82 points in 51 games.

Brad Vail, Trevor Murphy, Ryan Foss, Josh Ho-Sang and Cristiano DiGiacinto scored for the Spitfires in regulation time. The Spits scored three goals in 1:34 midway in the

third period.

The night was a special one for the Spitfires as they honoured their late captain Mickey Renaud on the sixth anniversary of his death. His number 18 was marked on the ice behind each net.

The Knights played without defenceman Alex Basso, who missed the game with a family funeral. Also, the Knights' starting goalie Anthony Stolarz has started skating after being sidelined with a serious leg injury.

London plays again Friday at the Budweiser Gardens with the Ottawa 67's, making their only appearance of the season. Game time is 7:30 p.m. DAVID LANGFORD/METRO

## Giant slalom

### Slovenia's Maze skis to second gold

Tina Maze earned her second gold medal of the Sochi

Olympics on Tuesday, winning from the front in a rainy and snowy giant slalom.

Wearing bib No. 1, Maze skied through the gates cleanly to defend her big first-run lead and finish 0.07 seconds

ahead of Anna Fenninger of Austria.

Erin Mielzynski of Collingwood, Ont., finished 21st, 3.82 seconds behind Maze, after coming 18th in the final run.

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## MEDALS

Nation	G	S	B	Tot.
Netherlands	6	6	8	20
United States of America	6	4	10	20
Russian Federation	5	8	6	19
Norway	7	4	7	18
Canada	4	9	4	17

## WHAT CANADA DID

### TUESDAY

#### ALPINE SKIING

**Women's Giant Slalom** - Erin Mielzynski, Guelph, Ont., finished 21st with a time of two minutes 40.69 seconds, 3.82 seconds out of first, after coming in 20th in the opening run and 18th in the final run. Marie-Michele Gagnon (Lac-Etchemin, Que.) and Marie-Pier Prefontaine (St-Sauveur, Que.) did not finish their opening run.

#### BIATHLON

**Men's 15 km Mass Start** - Brendan Green, Hay River, N.W.T., 9th, (43 minutes, 38.3 seconds, +1:09.2); Jean-Philippe Le Guellec, Shannon, Que., 10th, (43:41.6); Nathan Smith, Calgary, DNF.

#### BOBSLEIGH

**Women's** - Kaillie Humphries (Calgary) and Heather Moyse (Summerside, P.E.I.), are second overall after two runs with a time of one minute 55.12 seconds, 0.23 of a second out of first. Jennifer Gochetti (Edmonton) and Chelsea Valois (Zenon Park, Sask.) are 13th (1:57.06). Heats 3 and 4 take place on Feb. 19.

#### FREESTYLE SKIING

**Men's Ski Halfpipe** - Mike Riddle (Shenwood Park, Alta.) won the silver medal with a second run score of 90.60, 1.40 points out of gold. Noah Bowman (Calgary) was fifth overall (82.60) while Justin Dorey (Vernon, B.C.), who was first in the qualifying round, fell in both final runs and ended up 12th (20.40).

#### SHORT TRACK

**Men's 500 m** - Charles Cournoyer, Boucherville, Que., (41.18) and Olivier Jean, Lachenaie, Que., (41.616) both won their heats and advanced to the quarter-finals on Friday. Defending Olympic champion Charles Hamelin, Montreal, (1:18.871) fell and finished fourth in his heat and failed to advance.

**Ladies' 1000 m** - Valerie Maltais, La Baie, Que., (1:28.771) and Marie-Eve Drolet, Chicoutimi, Que., (1:31.273) both advanced to the quarter-finals on Friday, finishing their heats first and second respectively. Marianne St-Gelais, St-Felicien (2:05.206) did not qualify for the quarter-final.

**Ladies' 3000 m Relay** - Canada moved up to the silver medal position after China was disquali-

fied. Marie-Eve Drolet (Chicoutimi, Que.), Jessica Hewitt (Kamloops, B.C.), Valerie Maltais (La Baie, Que.), Marianne St-Gelais (St-Felicien, Que.) finished with a time of four minutes, 10.641 seconds, 1.143 seconds out of gold.

#### SNOWBOARD

**Men's Snowboard Cross** - Kevin Hill (Vernon, B.C.) did not finish his semifinal race and placed 8th overall. Christopher Robanske (Calgary) was disqualified in his quarter-final race and finished 17th overall. Jake Holden (Caledon, Ont.) did not advance in his qualifying heat, while Robert Fagan (Cranbrook, B.C.) was disqualified from his. Both finished tied for 25th overall.

## CURLING

### All Times Eastern

#### MEN

##### Country

x-Sweden

x-Canada

x-China

x-Britain

Norway

Denmark

Russia

Switzerland

United States

Germany

x — qualifies for playoffs

**Tuesday's result**

**TIEBREAKER**

Britain 6 Norway 5

**Wednesday's games**

**SEMIFINALS**

Sweden vs. Britain, 10 a.m.

Canada vs. China, 10 a.m.

**WOMEN**

Country

x-Canada

x-Sweden

x-Britain

x-Switzerland

Japan

China

Denmark

South Korea

Russia

United States

x — qualifies for playoffs

**Monday's results**

Britain 9 Russia 6

South Korea 11 United States 2

Japan 8 China 5

Switzerland 10 China 6

Denmark 8 Britain 7

**Canada 9** South Korea 4

Sweden 8 Japan 4

**Wednesday's games**

**SEMIFINALS**

Canada vs. Britain, 5 a.m.

Sweden vs. Switzerland, 5 a.m.

## HOCKEY

### PRELIMINARY ROUND

#### All times Eastern

##### MEN

###### Group A

	GP	W	OTW	OTL	L	GF	GA	Pts
U.S.	3	2	0	0	0	15	4	8
Russia	3	1	0	0	0	8	5	6
Slovenia	3	1	0	0	2	6	11	3
Slovakia	3	0	0	0	2	2	11	1

###### Group B

	GP	W	OTW	OTL	L	GF	GA	Pts
Canada	3	2	1	0	0	11	2	8
Finland	3	2	0	1	0	15	7	7
Austria	3	1	0	0	2	7	15	3
Norway	3	0	0	0	3	3	12	0

###### Group C

	GP	W	OTW	OTL	L	GF	GA	Pts
Sweden	3	3	0	0	0	10	5	9
Switzerland	3	2	0	0	1	2	1	6
Czech Rep.	3	1	0	0	2	6	7	3
Latvia	3	0	0	0	3	5	10	0

**Note:** Three points awarded for a regulation win, two for an overtime/shootout win and one for an overtime/shootout loss.

#### Tuesday, Feb. 18

### QUALIFICATION PLAYOFF ROUND

Slovenia 4 Austria 0  
Russia 4 Norway 0  
Czech Republic 5 Slovakia 3  
Latvia 3 Switzerland 1

### Wednesday's games

#### QUARTERFINALS

Slovenia at Sweden, 3 a.m.  
Russia at Finland, 7:30 a.m.  
Latvia at Canada, 12 p.m.  
Czech Republic at United States, 12 p.m.

#### Friday's games

#### SEMIFINALS

TBAA at TBAH, 7 a.m.

TBAA at TBAH, 12 p.m.

#### Saturday's games

#### BRONZE MEDAL GAME

TBAA at TBAH, 10 a.m.

#### Sunday's games

#### GOLD MEDAL GAME

TBAA at TBAH, 7 a.m.

#### WOMEN

#### Tuesday's results

#### SEVENTH PLACE GAME

Germany 3 Japan 2

#### FIFTH PLACE GAME

Finland 4 Russia 0

#### Thursday's games

#### BRONZE MEDAL GAME

Switzerland at Sweden, 7 a.m.

#### GOLD MEDAL GAME

Canada at United States, 12 p.m.

Don't just dream of winning.

Go get it.

Good luck Canada

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# Honda hit hybrid high in 2014



PHOTOS: WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

**Review.** The last time Honda made a hybrid as impressive as the Accord it was over a decade ago with the original Insight

MALCOLM GUNN  
wheelbasemedia.com

When a new hybrid sedan is called for, it appears that Honda is finally prepared to step up and deliver.

But instead of just one version of the Accord, there are two to consider: the Accord Plug-In that might possibly come to Canada (it's now available stateside); and another with less battery juice that you don't plug in.

Both hybrids can operate on battery or gasoline power independently or together in combination. It's the type of system commonly used in the Toyota Camry, Ford Fusion and Hyundai Sonata/Kia Optima duo.

Up to now for Honda, the electric motor operated only in tandem with the gas engine

(referred to as a partial or mild hybrid). That makes for good, but not exactly leading-edge fuel economy, and Honda has come up short in challenging Toyota and others for its rightful share of the expanding hybrid market. Until now, that is (see factbox).

The secret to the Accord Hybrid is what Honda calls its Intelligent Multi-Mode Drive, or i-MMD. The system consists of two electric motors that are serviced by a lithium-ion battery pack plus a 141-horsepower 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine. One 166-horsepower electric motor serves as the Accord's primary powerplant and principally drives the front wheels, while the other motor acts as a fixed-ratio direct-drive continuously variable transmission (referred to by Honda as an e-CVT).

The gasoline engine functions exclusively as a generator for much of the time (sort of like the Chevrolet Volt) by supplying power to the drive motor as well as helping to recharge the batteries. But at cruising speeds above 70 km/h, it seamlessly connects to drive the front wheels, with or

## 2014 Honda Accord Hybrid

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel-drive mid-size sedan
- **Engines (hp)** 2.0-litre DOHC I4 (141) and a 166-horsepower electric motor (195, net)
- **Transmissions.** Continuously variable
- **Base price (incl. destination).** \$31,300

## Design

Visually, the Accord Hybrid lacks the different nose that has been assigned to its Plug In counterpart, but it does feature a blue-accented grille, headlights and running lights, plus unique 17-inch wheels. Also, a trunk spoiler and special lower body panel improve vehicle aerodynamics (to help reduce fuel consumption)

## Compare



**1** Ford Fusion hybrid  
Base price: \$30,400



**2** Toyota Camry hybrid  
Base price: \$29,500

## Fuel economy

Honda claims it has leapfrogged the pack with a class-leading 3.7 l/100 km in the city and 4.0 on the highway. The top-selling Toyota Camry hybrid is rated at 4.5/4.9 and the Ford Fusion at 4.0/4.1. The Accord also beats out both the Hyundai Sonata and Kia Optima hybrid models that are rated at 5.4/4.9.

without electric-motor assist, depending on the load (accelerating and or heading uphill). In these instances, the system's 195 net total horsepower and 226 pound-feet of torque come into play.

The reason the Accord's city fuel economy is so impressive is that at speeds below 70 km/h, and under light-load conditions, only the electric drive motor is functioning to power the front wheels, or while the batteries have sufficient juice.

The entire drivetrain is cradled in a weight-saving all-aluminum sub-frame that

replaces the steel and aluminum one installed in regular Accords. Additionally, an aluminum rear bumper beam replaces the steel version. The weight savings help partially offset the battery pack that's packaged behind the rear seat and reduces trunk space by about 25 per cent.

Accord Hybrid pricing begins at \$31,300, including destination charges for the base model, which includes a wide assortment of content. The Touring trim level adds forward collision and lane departure warning safety

systems, moonroof and a premium sound package along with LED headlights, adaptive cruise control (which keeps you following at a safe distance) and a navigation system.

Without question Honda has become a technological leader in gasoline-electric propulsion. Whether the company can trade on the Accord's already rousing success and convert new buyers would seem to be a foregone conclusion. Why? It's the hybrid that everyone knew Honda could build.

5 DRIVE

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\*Limited time 2.9% semi-monthly lease offered through Toyota Financial Services on approved credit to qualified retail customers on all new 2014 Corolla models. First semi-monthly payment due at lease inception and next semi-monthly payment due approximately 15 days later and semi-monthly thereafter throughout the term. Toyota Financial Services will waive the final semi-monthly payment. Semi-monthly lease offers not open to employees of Toyota Canada, Toyota Financial Services or TMMC/TMMC Vehicle Purchase Plan. Some conditions apply. See your Toyota dealer for complete details. Example (applies across Canada except Quebec): 2014 Corolla CE 6M with a vehicle price of \$16,415 (includes \$1,100 Toyota Canada Lease Assist, which is deducted from the negotiated selling price after taxes, and \$1,520 freight/PDI) leased at 2.9% over 60 months with \$0 down payment equals 120 semi-monthly payments of \$89 with a cost of borrowing of \$1,735.85 and a total obligation of \$12,369.05. \$0 security deposit and first semi-monthly payment due at lease inception. Price and total obligation exclude license, insurance, registration, fees and taxes. 100,000 km allowance for 60 months, with ability to purchase additional kilometers at \$0.05/km at time of lease inception, and a charge of \$0.07/km for excess kilometers. Dealer may lease for less. †Toyota semi-monthly lease program available on 48 month and 60 month terms. Toyota semi-monthly lease program based on 24 payments per year, on a 60-month lease, equals 120 payments, with the final 120th payment waived by Toyota Financial Services. Competitive bi-weekly lease programs based on 26 payments per year, on a 60-month lease, equals 130 payments.



# Hammound's latest design has him on cloud nine

**Chrysler 200.** Ontario native has struck gold twice in the cut-throat, highly competitive world of designing cars



**AUTO PILOT**  
Mike Goetz  
drive@metronews.ca

You think the Olympics are competitive? Try designing vehicles for a living.

First you got to get a job as a designer at a major automaker. It's a tight job market. There are more professional basketball players in the NBA than there are professional cars designers in the entire world. If you're lucky and good enough to get that gig, you're still not home free.

At Chrysler there can be as many as 15-plus exterior designers working on the same project, hoping to have their work carried to the next stage, says Jeff Hammound during our interview session



A side view of the slick Chrysler 200. COURTESY OF CHRYSLER

at the Toronto auto show. "They never say you are the next designer of the car. Everybody sketches. Everybody puts designs on the wall."

But this Chrysler designer, a native of Guelph, Ontario, struck gold twice. One of his designs became the 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee, and just recently, his work came to life in the form of the all-new 2014 Chrysler 200.

Not only was he the lead exterior designer of the 200, but during the design process he was promoted to design manager, to oversee all the vehicle's exterior design matters right through to production. "That was unusual. It doesn't always happen that way. It gave me a lot of ownership of the design. I obviously had a lot of help from upper management ... But it really feels like my baby."



Canadian car designer Jeff Hammound and his 'baby', the Chrysler 200. PROVIDED

You don't run into car designers on the street every day, especially Canadian ones, so Hammound agreed to quick Q&A about his profession....

#### Typical day at the office?

"If we're sketching, you sketch all day long. A lot of us like to sketch after hours ... If the vehicle is 'in clay' you'll spend your day on floor, tapping lines,

etc. You're in rough clothes because you get covered in clay. It's fun though. Then you're working with engineers and going to a lot of meetings."

#### Hardest part of the job?

"The time you spend trying to hold your design. That's the hardest part. That it stays true to its original design, through cost constraints, manufacturing constraints,

engineering constraints. You really have to learn to balance your emotions. You need to learn to take criticism and not take it so personally, but you don't want to take the personal element out of it either, because it's the passion that makes a design successful."

#### Best advice to a car designer wanna-be?

"Definitely look at going to one of the more prestigious (design) schools, because you'll get exposure to the auto industry. The car companies come in and say, we like you, you and you. (Hammound went to Detroit's College for Creative Studies). Besides that, you really have to be passionate. It's very competitive and you'll be putting in long hours."

#### Dream assignment?

"As most designers would say — a super car. Few restrictions and more about what can you do to make it as ostentatious as possible. The proportions are also wide and long — makes for a really nice canvas."

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## Horoscopes

### Aries

March 21 - April 20

You will receive advice from all directions today, making it difficult to work out who is talking sense. Maybe you should shut yourself away for an hour or two and come to your own conclusions.

### Taurus

April 21 - May 21

You would be wise to keep your cash in your pocket today because if you make one wrong move, you may have to make several more to cover it up and before you know what's happening it will be costing you a fortune.

### Gemini

May 22 - June 21

It will pay you to keep a low profile and wait for the effects of today's Mercury-Saturn alignment to pass. That applies to all areas of your life but especially to your work.

### Cancer

June 22 - July 23

You may want to give voice to your feelings today but is that really such a good idea? The planets warn you won't do your cause much good if you let your resentments out for everyone to see.

### Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Steer clear of people who seem to enjoy talking about their worries. It may make them feel good to feel bad but it will spoil what might otherwise be a marvelous day.

### Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Someone who is jealous of your popularity will make life tough for you today but they are unlikely to succeed. Let the negativity go over your head. It'll annoy them. Good.

### Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

You will have to tell a little white lie today, the kind that keeps a friend from getting into serious trouble. A few days from now, when they realize what you did, they will thank you profusely.

### Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Avoid quick fixes and dubious schemes today because they will cost you money. Anyone who approaches you with any of those once-in-a-lifetime, just-can't-lose proposals must be shown the door.

### Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You must control your temper today. That may be easier said than done but it must be done or what starts as a minor dispute could quickly get out of hand. Avoid people who like to fight.

### Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

If you make a promise today you will have to keep, so think carefully before making a commitment. With Mercury, planet of communication, under lots of pressure you should keep your mouth shut.

### Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

What you are worrying about is not worth the time. A few days from now, you will look back and wonder how you could have gotten so worked up about something so trivial.

### Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

The Sun is moving through your sign and you're feeling on top of the world but today's Mercury-Saturn link could dampen your mood with negative news. **SALLY BROMPTON**

## Crossword: Canada Across and Down

### Across

1. Estonia's Lake
5. By-the-tracks structures, for short
9. Floral leaf
14. Owl's call
15. Wholly Part link: 2 wds.
16. Disney dog
17. Wanes
18. SOCHI 2014 - Biathlon competition: 2 wds.
20. Error
22. Verdi aria: "\_\_\_ Tu"
23. Extremist org. in 1974 headlines
24. Tunesmith Lisa
25. Nunavut: Sylvia \_\_\_ Territorial Park
27. Fib
29. Mr. Matsuhisa (Celebrity chef)
31. Canuck rock gr.
32. Moscow: One of the vivid architectural features of Saint Basil's Cathedral: 2 wds.
35. Spinning stats
39. Kabul, \_\_\_
40. Part of Fred Flintstone's roar!
42. Old Rome's 1052
43. Qatar's capital
44. Maggie Gyllenhaal's actor husband Peter
46. Arctic explorer John
49. Misplace
50. Ms. West



51. SOCHI 2014 - Snowboard event, \_\_\_
52. Giant Slalom
55. Keen on
57. Tokyo, formally
58. Ms. Zadora
59. Not for
62. Canadian painter of The Jack Pine: 2 wds.

65. Sarah McLachlan song
66. SOCHI 2014 - Adler \_\_\_ Skating Center
67. Labourer, in olde Anglo-Saxon times
68. Rock 'n' What?
69. Canadian furniture store since 1909

70. Origin
  71. Carpenter and Fire
- Down**
1. "Pardon me..."
  2. Quebecoise singer, Alys \_\_\_ (b.1923 - d.2011)
  3. SOCHI 2014 - Winter Olympics sport

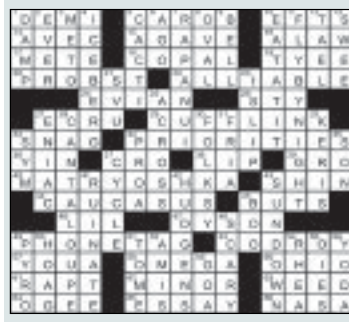
4. John Lennon's "\_\_\_ Hard"
5. 1984 Bryan Adams tune
6. Jaunt
7. Veto
8. Curl the lips
9. SOCHI 2014 - Cross-Country event, Team \_\_\_

See today's answers at [metronews.ca/answers](http://metronews.ca/answers).

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

10. 'Client' completer
11. Legume
12. In the least: 2 wds.
13. Devoted
19. Smidgen
21. Memphis, \_\_\_
25. Candy machine product: 2 wds.
26. "Candle in the Wind" subject, \_\_\_ Jean
27. Cargo
28. Lowdown
30. Feathery scarves
33. Canadian actress Catherine
34. River of Spain
36. Luc \_\_\_ (French Canadian lyricist of the musical Notre-Dame de Paris)
37. Ms. Sorvino
38. "West \_\_\_ Story" (1961)
41. Designated
45. Ms. Rowlands
47. First Greek letters
48. Director Mr. Petri
51. Flower's one-of-some
52. Love lots
53. Shakespeare role
54. Designer chairs surname
56. Accessory for Queen Elizabeth
59. Excellent
60. Sediment
61. Mr. Bachman's
63. Cable TV network Spike, formerly
64. NNW u-turn

## Yesterday's Crossword

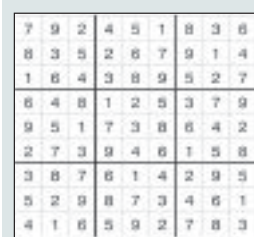


## Sudoku

### How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

## Yesterday's Sudoku



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